

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
AMERICAN INDIAN UREP SUBCOMMITTEE**
MINUTES – Monday, April 2nd, 2012
Location: United American Indian Involvement
Los Angeles, California

PRESENT: Dan Dickerson – UAI Mark Parra-DMH Carrie Johnson - UAI	Ana Suarez – DMH Robert Irvin – MHSA-WET/DMH Charlotte Lujan – AICC Gloria Shepard – AICC	Melanie J. Cain – AICC Al Garcia – UAI Peter Cano III – Pukuu Sunnie Whipple	Nina Tayyib – DMH Planning Div Bernice Masher Cheryl McKnight – BHS/AICS, CSU Benjamin Hale- AIHC
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MEETING TOPICS	ACTION STEPS
<p>AI/AN Learning Collaborative Paper and Event (Dan Dickerson)</p> <p>This long term project has finally come to a close for Phase 3. Since last June, AI/AN UREP leaders including Dan Dickerson, Carrie Johnson, Elton Naswood, Jojo and Chrissie, have been working with DMH to finalize the Learning Collaborative Report. The report discusses the 3 phases of this project but the majority of it is focused on the 3rd phase, the community feedback phase. The report contains quotes from the focus groups and a discussion of the feedback. The community has a lot to say about what traditional healing services mean to them, why integrating services is important and also about what barriers are present.</p> <p>Booklets were developed with CiMH and a Community Celebration Event was held on February 29th, 2012. DMH and Community Leaders who were involved in the project presented to the community. The date was February 29th, 2012 at St. Anne’s from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. DMH had ordered 1,000 booklets. There was a lot of demand and almost all of the booklets have been distributed locally and nationally via UREP members and agencies. Nina has just finalized plans for DMH to post the report to the DMH website, specifically under the Quality Improvement Division. This process will take time and when it is complete, Nina will inform UREP. Nina will also inquire regarding ordering more booklets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nina will request additional booklets be printed, if possible. • DMH will be posting report to the DMH QI UREP webpage
<p>California Health Disparities Project (Dan Dickerson and Carrie Johnson)</p> <p>Dan and Carrie have been part of a State Project called The California Health Disparities Project. As the leads for LA County, they have worked with other leads across the state and done focus groups throughout the state to discover ways in which to improve mental health care status of American Indian people throughout state of California. Specifically, this paper focuses on PEI Evidence Based Practices and gathering Community Leaders’ feedback on culturally competent approaches and adding promising practices and community defined evidence. Many projects done throughout the state have been included and how can they be integrated into services.</p> <p>Dan and Carrie mentioned that the State also has money to fund programs related to this project specifically for the AI/AN community. There continues to be discussion around which counties do actually deliver services to their AI/AN populations with this money. Some counties in California do not work with their AI/AN communities as much as LA County does. Therefore, it seems appropriate that they shouldn’t receive as much of the money.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once the SRDP report is finalized it will be posted by the CiMH and UREP members will be able to access it online.

Innovation RFS Update (Carrie Johnson)

Carrie shared that UAll has officially been awarded the contract and is in the process of developing this program. She reviewed the requirements, including that 60% of the clients need to be indigent and that clients need to have a mental health disorder with a co-occurring substance abuse problem and/or physical health condition. Another goal is to integrate traditional and non-traditional services and develop a formal network. Carrie provided examples of how UAll will be using this money towards cultural activities like beading, dancing, and drumming with will be coordinated by AI/AN staff. She also shared that they will be working with partners, particularly SCIC and AIHC, but that they can take referrals from any source. Carrie shared that AI/AN UREP members can help spread the word about this program.

There was discussion around AI/AN consumer needs and community member concerns around making sure that the services are culturally competent, including that they are provided by AI/AN clinicians and case managers. There was discussion around what defines a traditional healer, the needs of AI/AN consumers who are from the urban areas or from the reservation, or both.

The conversation transitioned to the need for more AI/AN clinicians working in mental health and what efforts are present and could be developed to increase the number. UREP members shared agencies or organizations that they knew were already in place in Southern California (SDSU AIR program, Operation Jump Start in Long Beach USD High Schools, UAll School, UCLA Health Sciences Camp, Graduate Program, etc.). UREP members discussed working together to either bring all these resources together so that the community is aware of them, including AI/AN UREP agencies making a list. Cheryl McKnight stated that she was very interested in coordinating this type of project. There was also discussion about using the AI/AN ISM to potentially provide mentoring services or how AI/AN UREP can function in facilitating this.

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DMH WET Update (Robert Irvin)

Robert discussed that a Licensure preparation program has been approved in the last month. MHSA WET is paying and subsidizing individuals who need to take the license preparation program as well as the fees for the exams themselves for psychologists, MSWs, or MFTs. This opportunity is open to both contractors and directly operated staff. There are DMH service commitment requirements. Individuals can enroll into these programs through their schools. Questions included the following: the specifics on the service commitments, if AI/AN students are being targeted for stipends, if bi-cultural (AI/AN) along with bi-lingual applicants being considered, if all degree programs included, and if substance abuse trainees are included.

Robert will follow up on the previous suggestion for a workshop be held based for identifying persons who may be interested in the stipend program; whether they are Native or non Native to work in the Native community, as there are not many Natives who are in the social work field, so individuals can obtain more information. Angelita had mentioned that she would discuss this proposal with the stipend coordinator, Jeff Gorsuch.

Robert reported that WET has begun the community college partnership project where WET goes to the various Supervisory Districts and look at those community colleges that are interested in knowing more about mental health services in terms of Transformations and Recovery and Resilience. WET takes the recovery

- A WET representative will be attending AI/AN UREP meetings

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philosophy and beliefs to the community colleges. This is the second year of program which includes the following community colleges: El Camino, Torrance, Compton and College of the Canyons.

System Leadership Team Update (Ana Suarez)

Ana provided a background on why the SLT was developed, the role it plays in monitoring how MHSA money is spent, as well as how members are from various stakeholder groups and how they are selected/elected. UREP is represented by Romalis Taylor but Paul Sacco also functions as a representative for the AI/AN UREP community. His role is to represent and advocate for the AI/AN perspective and concerns.

SLT meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month, from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm at St. Anne's. There is an opportunity at the end of the meeting for community members to speak, otherwise, only SLT members can speak during the meetings. AI/AN UREP concerns regarding DMH services that are voiced by UREP members can be communicated to Paul. Ana agreed to be a back up in case Paul is not available. Nina provided some information on current topics including the dissolution of the State Dept of Mental Health, IBHIS, and AB 109.

There was discussion around AB 109 included: how anti-craving medications are monitored and provided after release, the availability of non-traditional services before and after release for AI/AN individuals, the need for continued support for those with co-occurring substance abuse problems. There was also a discussion of various organizations and programs that exist to support those recently released from prisons. Ana agreed to schedule time for her and Melanie to meet with the HUBs in Whittier and Hollywood to discuss how staff can consult with AICC about AI/AN referrals as well as provide referral information.

AI/AN Mental Health Conference 2012 (Nina Tayyib)

Nina provided a quick summary of the conference: AI/AN Mental Health Conference: Weaving Wellness Into Our Spirits tentatively for November 6th, 2012. Subcommittees were discussed and committee members began to sign up for subcommittees. Also, AI/AN UREP members (Charlotte Lujan, Halsey, etc.) agreed to bring potential artwork for the conference theme at the next meeting.

Nina provided an update on DMH items:

- The Board Letter is still pending and it needs to be approved by Board of Supervisors before any commitments fiscally can be made. AI/AN UREP members expressed concern of the delay.
- Nina confirmed that no other date in November was available. Given that Nov 6th is voting day, the committee agreed to make attendees aware so that they can have time to consider their options.
- Nina confirmed that Sage could be burned for the blessings but Cal Endow is requiring it to happen outside in the center of the CE. This can be discussed in later discussions.
- Nina shared that she had confirmed the capacity and layout of the meeting rooms. Again, as the planning starts, this will be an issue discussed.
- Nina and Luis confirmed with the CE that no sale of jewelry will be allowed. Elton had mentioned interest in coordinating a community dinner at previous meetings, where vendors and cultural activities

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could take place.

- The food vendor for CE has agreed to take at least one recipe for traditional foods. Cheryl McKnight mentioned that Ben Wolfe had a good recipe, and he may be interested in working with the Chef.
- Nina confirmed with Luis that the conference could qualify for approximately 6-6.5 CEUs

Questions that came up included:

- Can there be photographers? There was discussion around privacy and a need for releases and also how it would be difficult to determine who had a release and who did not at the conference on the day of.
- Will the DMH registration defrayment for employees be provided? Will committee members, presenters/participants, consumer/community members, or contract provider employees need to pay enrollment fee? Nina and Luis will inquire once conference is approved.
- Will companies be able to buy ads in the program? Would it be possible to have a fiscal intermediary? Nina will confirm once conference is approved.
- Volunteer questions: How best to utilize community and consumer volunteers? Can we make arrangements for volunteers to eat earlier? What is the age limit? Do we allow students?
- Will DMH staff be able to assist during the conference? Ana offered AICC staff to assist DMH UREP staff.

2012 Meeting dates and locations

It was agreed that for the month where there is both a UREP meeting and a Conference Planning Meeting, the meetings would be joined.

Announcements/Adjournment

Gloria and Melanie shared that AICC will be holding a mental health fair on Wednesday, May 16th starting around 10:30 am. There will be films, arts & crafts, food, face painter, and mommy & me baby massage classes. Gloria will send out an announcement once details are finalized.

Next UREP Meeting

Meeting will be held at DMH 695 S Vermont, 15th floor Glass Conference Room on July 16th, 2012 from 1:00 pm 3:00 pm. This meeting will be joined with the Conference Planning Meeting that month, if the Board letter has been approved.