

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH  
 AMERICAN INDIAN UREP SUBCOMMITTEE  
 MINUTES – Monday, September 12, 2011  
 Location: Substance Abuse Prevention and Control  
 Alhambra, California**

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| <b>PRESENT:</b><br>Dan Dickerson – UAI<br>Mark Parra-DMH<br>Nina Tayyib – DMH Planning Div | Charlotte Lujan – AICC<br>Ana Suarez- DMH AICC<br>Larry Gasco-LAC Mental Health<br>Commission | Anna Perne- DMH<br>Danielle Glenn-Rivera-DHS SAPC<br>Barbara Arvi-AIFP<br>Ben Hale-AIHC | Chris Kamatami-UAI<br>Linda Fazio-DMH<br>Gloria Sheppard-DMH AICC |
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| <b>WELCOME</b> | <b>BLESSING</b> | <b>INTRODUCTIONS</b> |
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| <b>DISCUSSIONS</b> | <b>ACTION STEPS</b> |
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| <p><b>American Indian Counseling Center Program Head (Ana Suarez)</b></p> <p>Ana Suarez provided an update on the Program Head position at the American Indian Counseling Center. The position requires a licensed mental health professional, preferably for someone who is from and/or familiar with the AI/AN community. Ana Suarez, Service Area 7 District Chief, has been working closely with AI/AN UREP members to identify a candidate.</p> <p>Ana shared that since the last UREP meeting, there were some AI/AN candidates referred. Ana has contacted all of them and interviewed those who responded. She shared that there was only one candidate who was deemed to be a good fit and was offered the position. Unfortunately, she declined the position.</p> <p>Ana discussed AICC plans to formalize Gloria Sheppard as the Program Head at AICC. Ana has also identified an AI/AN applicant for a mentee position to work with Gloria who was a great candidate, but lacked the experience needed. Ana sees this candidate as a good fit as Program Head after some mentoring and training so that when Gloria retires, she can take over. Ana was commended by the AI/AN UREP for her efforts to work with UREP the past year to try to identify an AI/AN Program Head.</p> <p>A UREP member suggested that DMH increase the pay range for the Program Head position, which may increase the chances of finding an appropriate AI/AN applicant.</p> <p>Ana also discussed how AICC may be looking to be housed in another location and also co-locate staff all over LA County. AI/AN UREP members offered locations and contact persons. Suggestions included AIHC, TANF, Pukuu, Downtown Mental Health, Friend’s House in the Antelope Valley, and the Southwest Museum in Highland Park. Mark also discussed having a NAMI meeting at AICC.</p> |  |
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**DMH UREP co-chair nominations (Mark Parra)**

Mark Parra shared that he is stepping down as UREP co-chair and there is a need to elect a new DMH representative for co-chair. Mark has done a tremendous job as a co-chair and advocating for the needs of the AI/AN community. There was discussion about who can be elected into the position. Nina shared that the DMH requirement is to have one of the co-chairs an employee of DMH. There was discussion about how flexible this requirement can be. Nina was asked to confirm the requirements, including if this position could be filled by an employee of a DMH contracted agency or a LA County (non- DMH) employee. The requirements will be included in an email to the UREP group to solicit nominations, so that a new co-chair can be elected at the next UREP meeting.

- Nina will confirm options for co-chair DMH
- Nina will email UREP group with co-chair requirements and solicit nominations
- UREP group will elect new co-chair at the next meeting.

**DMH Innovation RFS Update (Nina Tayyib)**

Nina provided a quick recap of the Innovation (INN) RFS including its development and service goals.

Nina reviewed progress since the previous UREP meeting and next steps. Presently, agencies that applied for the ISM RFS have been informed if they have been recommended for Award. Contract Negotiations are presently occurring. The Board letter will be submitted once they are completed. It is only after the Board letter has been approved that the Awardees will be confirmed and the names will be released by DMH.

One AI/AN UREP mental health provider will receive a contract for the three-year program. The focus of the RFS is on learning and this project is similar to a demonstration project. DMH will also providing evaluation services through a third party, which will be selected through another RFS process. One goal is to have the lessons learned from this RFS inform DMH policy in order to make program and funding more effective in meeting AI/AN UREP community mental health needs.

Dan shared that UAII was recommended for Award. The group discussed how this opportunity is unique in that an agency will be able to integrate traditional healing activities with the present DMH services. There was interested expressed by different agencies on how they can work with UAII formally and informally on this project.

There has been a delay and the project is expected to start on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. This may change and the Awardees will be notified accordingly.

**Learning Collaborative Paper Update (Nina Tayyib)**

Nina provided a brief background on the status of the one time UREP capacity building project. The AI/AN UREP group elected to use the money towards a Learning Collaborative, focusing on the value of integrating cultural activities and traditional healing approaches into treat mental health treatment to improve outcomes for AI/AN consumers. The goal of the project was to document the voice of the community (through focus groups and community forums held) and for this to be summarized in a paper. The paper was then to be shared with the AI/AN community and DMH in a formal booklet and posting of

the document on the DMH website.

In order to follow through with the commitment made to the AI/AN community as well as to document the significant work that was done, a group of AI/AN UREP representatives agreed to try to bring this project to a close. UREP Members who have volunteered to take part include Dan Dickerson, Carrie Johnson, Chrissie Castro, Elton Naswood, Jojo Leon, and Mark Parra.

Since the last UREP meeting, the work group has met 6 times and connected regularly in person and via email. Presently, there is a working final draft. DMH will be working with CiMH to develop a draft of a booklet. The workgroup will re-group once there is a draft of this booklet. The UREP group offered ideas of where to locate AI/AN artwork or images and will also provide samples. Suggestions included artists in the community, specific websites, and artwork for local Tribes.

DMH hopes to have a formal event to acknowledge the release of the final booklet. Group members offered some ideas. Initially, the hope was to have a final booklet ready for Native American Heritage month in November 2011. Due to the delay, this date does not seem realistic but Nina will continue to provide updates.

**Announcements/Adjournment**

Barbara Arvi announced the Phases and Stages workshops that continue at AIFP

**Next Meeting**

January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 1-3 pm (followed by Conference Planning meeting 3-4) at AICC  
[This was adjusted due to a schedule conflict to January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011]