

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
AFRICAN/AFRICAN AMERICAN UsCC SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – May 30, 2019
Location: Lennox Library 4359 Lennox Blvd.
Lennox, Ca 90304
2pm-4pm**

Date: May 30, 2019

Present: Makesha Jones-Chambers, Romalis Taylor, Karen S. Gunn, Shari Farmer, Armando Iraldo, Lorenzo Murphy, Amy Williams, Erica Melbourne, Senait Admassu, Belanie Brown, Rita Riddick, and Tiana Brown

DMH Staff: Anna Yaralyan, Keacha Stewart, Desiree DeShay

Participants via conference call: Wendy Cabil and Lisha Singleton

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions	Action Item	Person(s) Responsible
Welcome & Introductions	<p>Welcome and Introductions.</p> <p>Romalis Taylor provided a brief description of the Code of Conduct. He informed all members that everyone must review and sign the Code of Conduct form. The Membership Code of Conduct is for every member that joins the subcommittee. This is to establish expectations for all subcommittee members, guests and presenters.</p>		AAA UsCC membership
Review of Minutes	<p>Meeting Minutes from the AAA subcommittee meeting on 4/18/19 were approved.</p> <p>Wendy Cabil stated she had some corrections that she wanted to highlight. She will forward this information to Anna Yaralyan.</p>		Co-chairs/ Romalis Taylor
DMH Announcements	<p>AAA Co-Chair Elections – We are in the process of selecting a new Co-Chair. We have received two nominations and we are still collecting names. We will release the names on July 1st. All of the UsCCs will have Co-Chair elections by July 1st 2019.</p> <p>Romalis Taylor informed the members that the subcommittee will review the new By-Laws at the</p>		Anna Yaralyan Romalis

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<p>2018/2019 AAA UsCC Capacity Building Projects:</p>	<p>next AAA meeting on June 20th, 2019. The group can add things that are important to make it culturally relevant for the AAA subcommittee. The new By-Laws will be shared with the entire group and any changes made will be finalized.</p> <p>Desiree DeShay updated the members on their current projects below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Community Network Agents of Change Project – will be for SA6 and SA8. This project is in process, and it is with the Internal Services Department waiting for the final approval. 2. The Community Youth Ambassadors Project – this project will target SA1 as there is a great need to engage the black youth community in this area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Desiree reported that we have received our reference quotes and have measured out what the bidding process will look like. Once it's out for bid, we will inform everyone. Hopefully, it will be before July 1st. <p>Desiree DeShay provided an overview on how Capacity Building Projects are developed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The projects were designed to focus on awareness of mental health issues, symptoms and concerns. 	<p>Taylor</p> <p>Desiree DeShay Weakley</p> <p>Desiree DeShay Weakley</p>
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<p>Update on AAA Capacity Building Projects for FY 2018/2019</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The projects include a platform that removes the stigma of mental health in general. The goal is to help target the African American Community and improve service delivery. ▪ There was a discussion about designing platforms that are inviting. These include community service events, presentations, and workshops intended to invite the AAA community into a place so that they don't feel stigmatized or threatened to receive mental health services. 		<p>Romalis Taylor</p>
<p>The Report on Black Peoples Experiencing Homelessness</p>	<p>The Report on Black Peoples Experiencing Homelessness will be presented by Reba Stevens at the next AAA meeting on June 20, 2019. Romalis asked the members to please read the article and information that was sent out to everyone.</p>		
<p>Brainstorming Session about upcoming Projects for 2019/2020</p>	<p>Brainstorming for Capacity Building Projects for FY 2019/2020 will start this summer. Members were encouraged to attend the meetings so they can present their ideas to the group.</p>		
<p>Black Maternal and Child Health</p>	<p>Romalis shared a document titled, "Americas Black Mothers and Babies." He reported the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The number of black mothers and babies that are dying has increased. For this reason, 		

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<p>Brainstorming Session about upcoming Projects for 2019/2020</p>	<p>there are 16 Senators involved in this issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The document stated that African American children and mothers are three times more likely to die during the birth process than any other race. ▪ Romalis Taylor provided copies of a document from the Department of Public Health on infant mortality. This document identified the issues and problems for the African American Mothers and Babies. The document indicated that within the African American community, infant mortality rates are three times higher than other groups. ▪ Romalis provided a toolkit called Black Mommas Matter that is meant to educate women, protect women’s rights, and include a safe and respectful maternal health care. The Health system has failed our children and mothers. Romalis provided a summary of this document with the group, talking about a young lady who experienced issues while being pregnant and how the health system failed her. This woman’s rights were not recognized or respected. ▪ Romalis would like to see black women and men educated on this topic. ▪ Romalis suggested for this document to be shared with all the AAA subcommittee members via email. He will forward this information to Anna Yaralyan, who in turn will forward it to all the AAA subcommittee members. <p>Wendy Cabil shared with the members how she was introduced to this topic. She attended a screening called “Death by Delivery” and this is how she learned more about it. Wendy Cabil suggested that educating people in the community on this topic can help decrease the problem.</p> <p>Lorenzo Murphy suggested educating the doctors and nurses as they have all the information hands on.</p>		
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<p>Brainstorming Session about upcoming Projects for 2019/2020</p>	<p>Belanie Brown stated that Black Women have a higher risk of severe physical health conditions more than any other ethnicities due to lack of clarity, social injustice, discrimination and single parenting. She pointed out that these are some variables to develop future capacity building project for all women.</p> <p>Dr. Karen Gunn had the following suggestions for Capacity Building projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Educate young black men across the board about caring for their families and limiting stress. We should think about helping fathers understand how they can help their families and increase love, attention and care, even if they are unemployed. There are things they can do which does not require money. They can learn to increase affection and understanding even in stressful conditions. We can develop projects that take into account and build resilience for the fathers to be. ○ Dr. Karen Gunn shared that there is an organization with a large amount of young black men that come together. The Drew League which is a probasketball league, is the name of the organization, it is a nonprofit organization. This would be a great piece to introduce them to, there are over 15 teams involved in this organization. We can reach a broad amount of individuals who can benefit from this information. ○ Dr. Karen Gunn also suggested that the Department should provide training to doctors, physician assistants, and nurses. Launch a training that has a mental oriented theme to deal with the implicit bias that exists. 	
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<p>Brainstorming Session about upcoming Projects for 2019/2020</p>	<p>Dr. Erica Melbourne shared the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Melbourne is part of a committee that focuses on African American Women and Infant Mortality. It is called African American Infant & Mortality Community Action Team, AAIMM CAT. ○ This project includes members from various County Health Agencies, First 5LA and other community programs that address issues impacting African American/Black Infant and Maternal Mortality in SA6 & SA8. There is also another group in SA1. ○ There will be PEI (Perinatal Equity Initiative) dollars that can be applied to build this type of program and African American Infant & Mortality Community Action Team, AAIMM CAT, will receive a notification about the money in June. The application process will start mid-July. ○ AAIMM CAT meets every other Monday. ○ The last South LA/South Bay AAIMM CAT meeting included about 100 women from various organizations. They discussed issues related to women and childbirth working together to figure out what they can do as a community to reduce infant mortality. It also included the cultural aspect specifically for the community. ○ Dr. Melbourne reported that she will would speak with the leads of the AAIMM CAT Steering Committee to see how they may be able to collaborate with the AAA subcommittee about this topic. <p>Lorenzo Murphy suggested gathering data of every pregnant woman and develop a survey to have</p>		
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<p>Future Meetings: Locations, Dates & Times</p>	<p>them complete it.</p> <p>Romalis Taylor asked the members to put together all their ideas and concepts regarding new Capacity Building Projects and share them with Makesha, Anna or himself.</p> <p>Belanie Brown suggested bringing back the YouTube project.</p> <p>AAA subcommittee members had the following suggestions to increase membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lorenzo Murphy suggested that WeRise should be centrally located for the consumers to attend; it should be at a place they can walk to within a two-mile radius. South Central should be the area where WeRise should be in the future. ▪ Romalis Taylor suggested that when AAA subcommittee meeting takes place in the Antelope Valley, (SA 1), we should develop a flyer to distribute in the community. One of the members from Antelope Valley stated that they can help with the distribution process. There are two groups that meet monthly in SA 1 and over 80 parents attend. This flyer can be distributed among these meeting attendees to disseminate information and invite them to the AAA subcommittee meetings. ▪ Romalis Taylor also suggested connecting with the District Chief and the SAACs to invite the African Americans to our meetings in the Antelope Valley area. The group had an open discussion about location of future meetings, invitations. Romalis encouraged anyone who 		
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	<p>knows of any African American Organizations they can invite to our meetings, to please inform Makesha, Anna or himself about it. He stated that we will distribute the flyers at future meetings because we would like to engage the AAA the community at large.</p>		
<p>Future Meeting Times & Dates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday July 18, 2019 2pm to 4pm 		
<p>Location of Meetings</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lennox Library 4359 Lennox Blvd Lennox, Ca 90304 2 pm - 4 pm</p>		

6/20/19 Draft

Respectfully Submitted:

Anna Yaralyan, Psy.D. Clinical Psychologist
 Office of the Deputy Director of Strategic Communications
 AAA Underserved Cultural Communities Liaison