

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
AFRICAN/AFRICAN AMERICAN UsCC SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES – January 18, 2018**

Location: Holman United Methodist Church
Los Angeles, CA 90008
2:00m to 4:00pm

Date: January 18th, 2018

Present: Romalis Taylor, Makesha, Jones-Chambers, Desiree DeShay-Weakley, Karen Gunn, Senait Admassu, MC Harris, Lorenzo Murphy, Brenda Ingram, Mesbal Mohamoud, Martin Jones, Kay Ramsey, Kenisha Trotter, Kathryn Crain, Marguerite Ferrera, Denise Johnson, Ubah Mohamoud, Fadumo Addow, Frida Khan , Vincent Galloway and Janet Denise Kelly.

Participants via conference call: Ashley Scott, Nina Womack, Lisha Singleton, Kandee Lewis, Adrienne Spires and Reba Stevens.

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions	Action Item	Person(s) Responsible
Welcome & Introductions	Attendee introductions		AAA UsCC membership
Review of Minutes	The November 2018 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with no corrections noted. Romalis Taylor asked for a motion; the motion was made by Martin Jones and seconded by Lisha Singleton. Romalis called for the vote and the motion was carried and minutes were approved.		Co-chairs
Dept. Mental Health Update	Martin reported that Dr. Robin Kay will be retiring in March 2018. He also discussed that DMH is focused on the restructuring of the Department by function instead of by age groups. Dr. Sherin would like the focus to be in the “trenches” and response to the needs of the community, clients and constituents. Martin also reported that Dennis Murata will be the Administrative Lead over the Cultural Competency Unit under the Health Agency and will also work on the expansion of the Mental Health Promoters’ Model, which will be a collaborative effort with the Department of Public Health Services as well as the Department of Health Services. Lastly, he reported that Greg Polk is the new Chief Deputy director over Administrative Operations for DMH. He is focused on looking at redundancies within DMH administrative processes and contractual issues in order to fine tune the financial structure of the Department.		Martin Jones

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<p>SLT Updates</p>	<p>SLT(System Leadership Team) Updates Romalis reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEI projects • Innovation Pipeline • Housing • Programs – FSP Outcomes will be restructured to focus on overall wellbeing, community reintegration, and symptom improvement of clients’ served by DMH. <p>Housing: There are 10 housing projects that are being developed with Board approval. The Board took a motion on this. We are exploring more innovative ways to house the homeless in a more timely and efficient manner.</p> <p>Innovation Pipeline Workgroup: DMH is exploring ideas for new concepts/projects that can be brought to scale and piloted as an Innovative models of care or services. There will be 10 projects selected. Anyone can submit a project proposal and it will automatically go to Wendi Tovi, who is DMH’s Lead Administrator over the Innovation Pipeline Workgroup. Project concepts will be reviewed by a team and will be vetted by stakeholders.</p> <p>Lorenzo asked, “will the ideas be protected with a confidentiality letter”.</p> <p>Romalis stated, “if your project is selected, it becomes ownership of the DMH”. Romalis encourage the group to submit a proposal with a concept and it will be reviewed. In addition, the project needs to focus on learning and improving our system of care. It doesn’t have to involve client care; it could also be an administrative concept.</p> <p>Martin shared that he asked Kalene Gilbert (CSOC Prevention Chief) to give the UsCC subcommittees more funding to develop capacity building projects that are ethnic and culturally specific.</p> <p>Desiree reminded the group that additional PEI dollars were requested to fund</p>		<p>Romalis Taylor Desiree DeShay</p>

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	<p>successful UsCC Capacity Building projects. A decision about this is pending.</p> <p>Brenda shared that it is important to look at how we structure the proposals so that we can be innovative as well as consistent with the implementation and longevity.</p> <p>Reba Stevens stated, “what are we doing to get more community members at the table and making sure that we are meeting the needs of the community”.</p> <p>Desiree replied, “DMH is listening to the needs of all the various different communities within our County. Thus far, each of the UsCC subcommittees is committed to increase the voice of the community that we outreach to and we are supportive of the inclusion of peers and consumers in our membership. We are always here to listen to the community and advocate for services that are culturally sensitive, relevant, and tailored to the specific needs of each subgroup.</p> <p>MC expressed a concerned about why he was not getting the information regarding the AAA UsCC meetings until recently.</p> <p>Desi stated that DMH is committed to being inclusive and promoting this UsCC subcommittee to increase its membership. MC was praised for attending and being an active member.</p> <p>Brenda discussed what can be done to increase the membership of the UsCC subcommittee and promote it in the community. She suggested to reach out various CBOs, such as the Alliance of Neighborhood Council. In addition, she shared that the Association of Black Social Workers have developed an initiative to work on Black homelessness in black communities of Los Angeles County. There will a Summit that will focus on developing an action plan. Brenda urged members to join the Black Social Workers: Policy and Practice meetings which take place on the 2nd Sat. of every month. Brenda agreed to forward more information about the Summit to Desire so she can</p>		

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	<p>distribute it to the group.</p> <p>Marguerite suggested distributing the flyers regarding the AAA UsCC subcommittee in Leimert Park to increase the membership.</p> <p>Nina Womack offered to set up a resource table at various community events to promote DMH services.</p> <p>Fadumo Addow discussed concerns about homelessness in the Pomona area. She suggested outreaching to that community so they can join the subcommittee and advocate for their needs.</p> <p>Mesbel suggested reaching out to members of the African immigrant communities so they can join this Subcommittee.</p> <p>Presentation: Department of Public Health Yolanda Rogers Jones (County Coordinator) and Monique Gooding Dept. of Public Health: They reported on the epidemic with African-American mothers and Infant mortality. The California Black Infant Health (BIH) Program aims to improve health among African-American mothers and babies by empowering pregnant and mothering African-American women to make healthy choices for a brighter future. It is also important to include African-American men in this conversation.</p> <p>The presentation included the following facts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1989 the black infant mortality rate was 19/1000 and over time it decreased to 7/1000; • Currently African Americans are 2 to 3 times more likely than other ethnic group to suffer from issues of infant mortality; • The African American Infant Mortality Initiative will work to develop a 5-year strategic plan to address this issue. <p>Monique: We are looking to start a workgroup in the next few weeks in</p>		

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	<p>collaboration with DHS, DMH and DPH. We are asking clinicians, community liaisons and agencies to get involved.</p> <p>Brenda pointed out that the core of the problem is the issue of black women and trauma, from a generational perspective. She further stated that these communities are marginalized and that needs to be addressed systematically.</p> <p>Lorenzo offered to have these presenters on his radio podcast show in Compton in order to promote the BIH initiative.</p> <p>Fadumo Addow reported that the infant mortality rate is at an all-time high and it is important that we provide preventive care. We must support that.</p> <p>Marguerite suggested for them to get involved with the Radio Justice Program to further promote the BIH initiative. She also asked about the availability of funds for people to support the workgroup meetings.</p> <p>Yolanda shared that she is working on allocating funds to promote community engagement and participating in the BIH Initiative. She requested for stipends be available.</p>		
<p>Other Items discussed</p>	<p>UsCC Capacity Building Project Update: (still pending solicitation) The Black Immigrant Youth Empowerment project is pending approval. This capacity building project is designed to understand the impact between first and second generation black immigrants as well as educate and address concerns about mental health issues, It will also help to empower and provide leadership skills.</p>		<p>Desiree DeShay</p>

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Next meeting	February 15 th , 2018 TBA 2pm-4pm		Desiree DeShay

Respectfully Submitted,

Desiree DeShay-Weakley

LACDMH

Program Support Bureau

Quality Improvement Division

AAA UsCC Liaison