

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
AFRICAN/AFRICAN AMERICAN UsCC SUBCOMMITTEE**

MINUTES – February 15, 2018

Location: Lennox Library

Hawthorne, CA 90304

2:00m to 4:00pm

Date: February 15th , 2018

Present: Romalis Taylor, Makesha, Jones-Chambers, Desiree DeShay-Weakley, Karen Gunn, Senait Admassu, MC Harris, Lorenzo Murphy, Brenda Ingram, Kay Ramsey, Kenisha Trotter, Kande Lewis, Ashley Scott, Eko Canillas, Nina Womack and Shukry Cattan.

Participants via conference call: Lisha Singleton, Denise Ellis and Terri Boykins

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions	Action Item	Person(s) Responsible
Welcome & Introductions	Attendee introductions		AAA UsCC membership
Review of Minutes	The February 15 th meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with no corrections noted. Romalis Taylor asked for a motion; the motion was made by Dr. Karen Gunn and seconded by Dr. Kay Ramsey. Romalis called for the vote and the motion was carried and minutes were approved.		Co-chairs
Dept. Mental Health Update	Mirtala reported that the Cultural Competency Unit is working with a consultant to conduct a DMH CCC organizational assessment among its workforce, directly operated clinics and legal entities; employee will participate in this survey. Naga stated that this information will be shared with the entire workforce, including and top administrators. Mirtala reported that PEI dollars are being utilized to fund media campaigns targeting underserved communities such as Arabic speaking groups and six API subgroups. The media campaign will be via radio and television. In addition all the UsCC committees will be part of a massive outdoor media campaign and this included the AAA subgroup.		Mirtala Ward Mirtala Ward
SLT Updates	SLT(System Leadership Team) Updates No updates this week, meeting is next week 2/21/18 .		Romalis Taylor

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<p>First 5 LA</p> <p>SAAC 6 Update</p> <p>Open Discussion</p> <p>Proposal Ideas for AAA Stakeholder Engagement AAA UsCC subcommittee</p>	<p>Romalis: Spoke about a program through First 5 LA called Welcome Baby to help African-American babies who are more prone to die. Welcome Baby provides L.A. County pregnant women and new moms with information, support and a trusted partner to help them through the journey of pregnancy and early parenthood. This is a free and voluntary program from First 5 LA that offers the following during pregnancy and throughout your baby's first nine months: An in-hospital visit, A personal Parent Coach, Information and support, An in-home appointment, Referrals to additional resources and provide Baby- and mom-friendly items.</p> <p>Romalis attended the SAAC 6 meeting at West Central. Romalis reported that the SAAC 6 is preparing to re-elect new co-chairs. There is also a plan to develop a Stakeholder workgroup to look at outreach strategies to connect with the consumers and the community within this service area. They will connect with The SLT, SAAC, The Lead Executive Commission and the Service Area Leadership Commission.</p> <p>Romalis stated that the community is concerned about accessing services in a timely fashion for consumers and community constituents. It is important to look at the role of Cultural Brokers, Community workers with DMH and Health Promoters to address these concerns.</p> <p>MC Harris stated that it is important to look across all levels of people within our community in order to determine who are the individuals within DMH that are already community ambassadors and to identify other key community members that can support these efforts.</p> <p>Communications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media Campaign (DMH websites, commercials, radio, posters) highlighting healthy living, family connections, and community resources. • Work with familiar community-involved radio and network stations that are relevant to African and African-American communities. • Social Media with positive messages of hope and resiliency for the AA A community. 		<p>Romalis Taylor</p> <p>Romalis Taylor</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town hall meetings with faith-based leaders, political leaders, and Health Agency leaders. • Speakers’ bureau and conferences for the AAA community focused on decreasing stigma, improving community relations, advocacy, and age-group specific needs. • Focus groups for the AAA community to voice issues and concerns regarding policies community feedback. • Videos of client experiences/testimonies shown in MH Clinic lobbies. • Acquire cultural and linguistic appropriate information through printed materials. • Hire and train staff who are culturally sensitive and understand the need of the diverse communities that are serve. <p>Outreach and Engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambassadors (community members who engage others at events throughout LA County). • Countywide Listening Sessions. • Community Workers (hired for each service area to represent all the UsCC communities in the SAAC, SLT, and report needs to the UsCC Leadership Committees). Include representation from all age groups and ethnic communities. • Youth training programs to provide peer services in schools, colleges, after school programs. • Send O&E teams to non-traditional sites , i.e. juvenile halls/camps, jails, community centers, YMCA, health centers, etc. to provide resources and connection to mentors. • Mobile Wellness teams with integrated care professionals and peer staff from the Health Agency. • Engage Parents and Caregivers in supportive services for their LGBTQ+ youth. 		

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	<p>Research and Community Initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Competency assessment from the perspective of clients and providers. • Improve trainings for staff to address cultural humility and communication skills. • Create staff surveys that address cultural competency and equity issues specific to the African Immigrant and African-American communities. • Create projects based on community needs and develop strategies to address those needs. Projects will vary depending on service areas. • Work with faith-based and grassroots organizations to educate the community on mental health. • Create, support, and finance community initiatives developed by the people for the people. • Pilot innovative Community-Defined Evidence based models such as Faith-based Family Wellness Resource Centers. • Provide mentorship programs and training for organizations and businesses that would like to become legal entities with LAC DMH (Incubator Program). • Train community members in peer-oriented practices. • Create screenings and tools that are culturally aware and non-labeling. • Promotion of published works on DMH website. • Post-doc fellowships focused on research and innovation for the AAA community. • Provide incentives and awards for community agencies demonstrating effective interventions. <p>Resources Required:</p> <p>Funding for transportation, childcare, and refreshments for community members who attend stakeholder meetings.</p> <p>Funding for 32 Community Workers/Peer Advocates/Parent Advocates (4 in each</p>		

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	<p>Service Area).</p> <p>DMH staff assigned to support the work of Community Ambassadors.</p> <p>Allocation for paid internships and stipends for Ambassadors.</p> <p>Utilize WOW Workers who are already trained to work in the community.</p> <p>Safe spaces to meet within the community, locations and times convenient to the stakeholders.</p> <p>Develop policies and procedures that are equitable to foster community engagement and be inclusive of all underserved groups.</p>		
Other Items discussed	<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>		Desiree DeShay
Next meeting	<p style="text-align: center;">March 21st, 2018 African Communities Public Health Coalition 3731 Stocker St. Suite 201 Los Angeles, CA 90008 2pm-4pm</p>		Desiree DeShay

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Respectfully Submitted,
Desiree DeShay-Weakley
 LACDMH
 Program Support Bureau
 Quality Improvement Division
 AAA UsCC Liaison