

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH  
AFRICAN/AFRICAN AMERICAN UsCC SUBCOMMITTEE  
MINUTES – January 19<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**Location: Los Angeles Department of Mental Health 695 S. Vermont Ave.  
Los Angeles, Ca 90005**

**2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, 15th Floor (Glass conference room)**

**Date:** January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
**Present:** Romalis Taylor, Mirtala Ward, Reba Stevens, Naga Kasarabada, Iyatunde Folayan, Senait Admassu Desiree DeShay-Weakley, Kenisha Trotter and Catherine Clay  
**Participants via conference call:** Martin Jones, Shavonda Webber Christmas, Julie Gray, Mesbal Mohamoud, Erlinda Abella, Terri Boykins, Belanie Brown

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions	Action Item	Person(s) Responsible
<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	Attendee introductions		AAA UsCC membership
<b>Review of Minutes</b>	November 2016 meeting minutes reviewed and approved with corrections noted. Julie Gray made a motion to approve the minutes and Erlinda Abella seconded the motion.		Co-chairs
<b>SLT Updates</b>	<p><b>SLT(System Leadership Team) Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Romalis</b> reported on the Continuation of Care Reform and the update is that the State has agreed to add mental health funding.</li> <li>• He also reported on information surrounding the Repeal and Replace of the ACA. Romalis reported that 18 million dollars will be lost which means 18 million people will be without health care insurance in the first year and 26 million in the second year. He said this would be catastrophic for the Nation.</li> <li>• Dr. Robin Kay mentioned that here will be an ACA focus group to discuss and plan what DMH will do moving forward.</li> <li>• <b>Romalis</b> encouraged subcommittee members to contact their legislators in Washington DC as well.</li> <li>• <b>Romalis</b> also reported that Dr. Debbie Innes-Gomberg, Deputy Director did a presentation on the MHSA 3 Year Program and Expenditure Plan Review. This information will be emailed to the subcommittee once it's available.</li> </ul>		Romalis Taylor Mirtala Ward
<b>Project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UsCC Capacity Building Project proposals were discussed at length.</li> </ul>		Desiree DeShay



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<p><b>Other discussions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Catherine Clay</b> addressed concerns about the African-American community being overlooked and not receiving the proper services in service Area 6. She reported that the trauma, mass incarceration, families dealing with Department of Children and Family services is an on-going crisis in the black community.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It was suggested to develop a focus group to look at these issues and concerns in the SA 6 community.</li> <li>○ <b>Mirtala</b> and Desi will follow up with Catherine to get more information and provide assistance to organize the focus groups.</li> <li>○ <b>Mirtala</b> also stated that this focus group would be helpful to empower the members in creating change and other subcommittee members (i.e. Iyatunde from BWW) stated that she would also like to collaborate with Catherine.</li> <li>○ <b>Senait</b> stated that the African immigrant population is struggling with the same issues as African-Americans within SA 6. It is important that we collaborate and work together to help all community members.</li> <li>○ <b>Romalis</b> suggested to review and collect data regarding the gaps in services in SA 6 are and for this to be presented to DMH to explore possible solutions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		<p>Desiree DeShay Mirtala Ward</p>
<p><b>FY 2015-2016 Capacity Building Project updates:</b></p>	<p><b>Black Male Mental Health Awareness Campaign Update: Shavonda Webber Christmas:</b> Community Advocate training will be held on January 28, 2017 from 1:30 -3:30 pm at the University Christian Church Mission's Café located at 5831 W Centinela Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90045.</p> <p><b>African-American Woman Leadership and Wellness Mental Health Outreach Project: Black Woman For Wellness (Jan Robinson)</b> Phase Two has been completed and Phase Three is underway. The first series of workshops have been scheduled and will start in February 2017.</p> <p><b>The African Immigrants and Refugees Mental Health Outreach Project</b> The facilitation of the workshops has begun. There are a total of 24 workshops</p>	<p>Distribution of the Flyer to promote participation.</p>	<p>Shavonda Christmas Webber</p> <p>Iyatunde Folan</p>

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	that are two hours long. The workshops are focused on mental health psycho-education and spirituality.		Senait Admassu
<b>Other Items discussed</b>	<b>Desiree</b> mentioned to the group that it is important to be respectful and polite towards other when discussing community concerns and service delivery. <b>Mirtala</b> informed the subcommittee that all of UsCC subcommittees will be provided with a Code for Conduct and this will be presented at the next meeting.		Mirtala Ward
<b>Next meeting</b>	Thursday, February 23, 2017 695 S. Vermont Blvd Los Angeles, Ca 90059 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm 15 <sup>th</sup> Floor Glass Conference Rm.		Desiree DeShay

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