

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
AFRICAN/AFRICAN AMERICAN UsCC SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES – March 1st 2017**

**Location: Los Angeles County 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: March 1st, 2017

Present: Romalis Taylor, Mirtala Ward, Senait Admassu, Desiree DeShay-Weakley, Shavonda Webber Christmas, Kenisha Trotter, Catherine Clay and Brenda Ingram, Lisha Singleton, Dr. Karen Gunn, Willie Duncan, Kay Ramsey

Participants via conference call: Reba Stevens, Martin Jones, Julie Gray, Mesbal Mohamoud, Erlinda Abella, Terri Boykins, Belanie Brown, Wendy Cabil and Denise Ellis

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions	Action Item	Person(s) Responsible
Welcome & Introductions	Attendee introductions		AAA UsCC membership
Review of Minutes	January 2017 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
African-American Conference 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The African-American conference was a huge success and very positive this year. • Terri Boykins spoke on how the conference focused on building one another up and not tearing one another down. • Dr. Gunn stated that the Department should advocate for more consumers to be involved and let more DMH staff assist with the AA conference. • Wendy Cabil would like to see more consumer workshops added and would like to submit a proposal for consideration. • Belanie Brown stated that after Rene Woodruff retired, there had not been a AA conference in 10 years. 		AAA UsCC membership
SLT Updates	SLT(System Leadership Team) Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Sherin presented a diagram of how he is viewing the Department of Mental Health entitled “Sacred Interface”- The relationship of those who are receiving services and those that are providing services, known as the clinical trench. That is where the critical data exist, and we need to access that to make good decisions. • Susan Rajlal, Legislative Analyst, County of Los Angeles, Department of 		Romalis Taylor Mirtala Ward

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	<p>Mental Health reported that, “this is the end of bill season, meaning all the bills that will be introduced for this year for this session needs to be in by the 17th.” Currently we have 34 various bills being reviewed. Assemblyman Adrin Nazarian will be the author of our bill that is related to MHSA.</p> <p>Brief update on the ACA</p> <p>Conversation is changing - 60 days ago; we were going to replace Obamacare. A week ago, we started hearing we are going to repair the ACA. 43,600 clients in Los Angeles County received mental health treatment under Medicaid expansion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSHA 3-Year Expansion: Debbie Innes-Gomberg, Ph.D., Deputy Director reported on the Hearing took place on Feb 23rd at Cathedral of our Lady of the Angels (555 W. Temple Street) from 11:30 am-3pm. She stated that hearing went well. 		
Voting Concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brenda Ingram raised the concern about DMH employees voting on the Capacity Building Proposals; she feels it is a conflict of interest. • Reba Stevens wanted transparency on all those AAA subcommittee members who voted. • The survey monkey voting tally was distributed to all who attended today meetings. • Lisha Singleton disagreed with DMH employees having a conflict of interest; she feels that they are a very intricate part of the subcommittee. • The AAA subcommittee Code of Conduct was explained in detail by Mirtala and was distributed and all persons present in the meeting signed this document. All copies were collected; those on the phone were asked to sign their copies and scan/email them to Desi and or bring them to the next meeting. 		Mirtala and Desiree
Brainstorming Session	African Youth Empowerment Project: Winning Proposal for FY 2017-2018		Desiree DeShay & Mirtala Ward

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	<p style="text-align: center;">Three Questions to Discuss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What subgroups can be incorporated into the concept and why? Subcommittee members produced the following Statements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “There should be an expansion beyond TAY, and start with younger children. Immigrant stressors are different (B.I.)” ○ “It should only be for African descendants; also conflict between youth and families that don’t know how to integrate (S.A.)” ○ “Different African groups have different levels of trauma; need to focus on those specifically (K.G.)”. ○ “African-American youth deal with parents being incarcerated (C.C.)”. ○ “Need to look at data and numbers on African immigrants.(K.R.)”. ○ “Look at TAY in their entirety, i.e. family separation, barriers as to who they are and the issues are similar between TAY-African & African American (B.B.)”. ○ “Dealing with the TAY, you must look at the whole family (S.C.)”. ○ “Acculturation issues for African TAY are very dynamic. Look at Youth development Model vs Clinical model, include the faith based and the family (R.T.)”. • From your perspective, what are some of the barriers that the AAA TAY youth have to accessing mental health services? Subcommittee members produced the following Statements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “African communities don’t know Mental Health is here and support needs to be knowledgeable and culturally sensitive (K.G.)”. 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Respect the process (B.B.)”. ○ “Conceptualizing MH and Mental Illness; the distress is different, very isolated and unique (B.I.)”. ○ “Cultural stigma for African Immigrants (R.T.)”. ○ “Self-Identification is in question for African-American TAY (.S.C.)”. ○ “Cultural shock for first and second generation immigrants; and they may not know how to access services. There is a breakdown of identity of the African-American family (W.D.)”. ○ “Lack of age appropriate staff to relate to youth in an appropriate ways (K.G.)”. ○ “Generational Lack of Providers; African American do not look like them and don’t trust the system (C.C.)”. ○ “African communities have general barriers due to ethnicity and TAY has very different developmental issues from adults (T.B.)”. ○ “Family involvement is very important (S.C.)”. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In your opinion, what are some effective culturally specific ways to engage the AAA-TAY subgroups? Subcommittee members produced the following Statements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Get healthy from the bottom up; do a survey that looks at what’s important to them (W.D.)”. ○ “Do non-traditional things that are out the box; meet the youth where they are cultural brokers, specific helpers (B.B.)”. ○ “Building partnerships that are culturally appropriate and find specific areas where 		

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	<p>TAY's are located. Also use Art, Music, Spoke Word, and dance (K.G.)."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "Utilize faith based organizations, also use a Youth Development model not a clinical model (B.I.)." ○ "Look at private schools (R.T.)." ○ "Create incentives and use age appropriate peers to do O&E as well as focus groups (C.C.)." ○ "Use food, family building and the arts (S.C.)." ○ "Go to African schools and speak with their students (R.S.)." ○ "Go to restaurants that are family based (K.R.)." 		
<p>FY 2015-2016 Capacity Building Project updates:</p>	<p>Black Male Mental Health Awareness Campaign Update: Shavonda Webber Christmas: Advocates have been trained and workshop presentations will take place in March. African-American Women Leadership and Wellness Mental Health Outreach Project: Black Woman For Wellness (Jan Robinson) The second series of workshops have been scheduled and will start in March.</p> <p>The African Immigrants and Refugees Mental Health Outreach Project The facilitation of the workshops has begun. There are a total of 24 workshops that are two hours long. The workshops are focused on mental health psycho-education and spirituality and will be going on until May 31st.</p>		<p>Shavonda Christmas Webber</p> <p>Willie Duncan</p> <p>Senait Admassu</p>

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Other Items discussed	<p>The other three AAA UsCC proposals will be vetted with Prevent and Early Intervention to see if there is an opportunity for funding. Meeting is pending.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African/African-American UsCC Older Adult CBP • Ubuntu Project • Circles & Connections-African-American Women at Ages & Stages 		Mirtala Ward
Next meeting	<p style="text-align: center;">TBA 695 S. Vermont Blvd Los Angeles, Ca 90059 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm 15th Floor Glass Conference Rm.</p>		Desiree DeShay

Respectfully Submitted,

Desiree DeShay-Weakley

LACDMH

Program Support Bureau

Quality Improvement Division

AAA UsCC Liaison