

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH  
AFRICAN/AFRICAN AMERICAN UsCC SUBCOMMITTEE  
MINUTES – July 31, 2017**

**Location: DMH 695 S. Vermont Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90005**

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

**Date:** July 31, 2017

**Present:** Romalis Taylor, Mirtala Ward, Desiree DeShay-Weakley, LaKeisha Jones, Iyatunde Folayan, Brenda Ingram, Kahn Johnson, Tiffany Duvernay, Chandler Norton and William Legere.

**Participants via conference call:** Reba Stevens, Mesbal Mohamoud, Erlinda Abella, Willie Duncan, Terri Boykins, Belanie Brown, Wendy Cabil and Denise Ellis

<b>Agenda Items</b>	<b>Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions</b>	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>
<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	Attendee introductions		AAA UsCC membership
<b>Review of Minutes</b>	The June 2017 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with no corrections noted. Romalis Taylor asked for a motion; the motion was made by Tiffany Duvernay and seconded by William Legere. Romalis called for the vote and the motion was carried and minutes were approved.		Co-chairs
<b>SLT Updates</b>	<b>SLT(System Leadership Team) Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The System Leadership Team meeting was canceled.</li> </ul>		Romalis Taylor Mirtala Ward
<b>AAA Media Campaign</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are continuing with the AAA media bus campaign for the next three months. We are also preparing for a radio campaign with KJLH in August; it will probably run from October to December 2017. The sole source and SOW documentation has been completed.</li> </ul>		Mirtala and Desiree
<b>FY 2015-2016 Capacity Building Project updates:</b>	<b>Shavonda Weber Christmas</b> presented the results of the <b>Black Male Mental Health Awareness Campaign (BM2HAC)</b> , which targeted African American males. She discussed in detail the results and recommendations of this project. This project was very successful overall and the subcommittee members made a motion to have this project expanded. An email will be sent to PEI with the current recommendations and request to re-fund this project using PEI dollars. The subcommittee had other suggestions regarding the target population for this to help expand and reach more community members. The support team consisted		Shavonda Weber Christmas  Iyatunde Folayan

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	<p>of Harold Turner (NAMI), Ronald Banks (PsyD, Pacific Oaks College), Angel Hall (PsyD, Pacific Oaks College) and Shavonda Webber-Christmas, Project Director. Nineteen community advocates were trained and were able to deliver presentations to the community presentations. Twelve presentations were completed and 318 community members were served by this project.</p> <p>The subcommittee was interested in know what is the sustainability of this project?</p> <p><b>Tiffany</b> stated that she would like to see the BM2HAC extended as it was a very impactful.</p> <p><b>Brenda</b> asked if this project is funded again for it to target the re-entry African-American male community. The workshops need to be more than two hours and the subcommittee can make recommendation regarding the expansion.</p> <p><b>Belanie</b> asked to give credit and appreciation to Bruce Wheatley, who created the concept for this project.</p> <p>Iyatunde Folayan from <b>Black Women for Wellness</b> presented the results of <b>The African American Leadership and Wellness Mental health Outreach Project; aka. “Are You Okay Sis?”</b>. The curriculum was developed to serve African American women 18 and older, and to implement a countywide project that focused on advocacy, leadership, holistic wellness, spirituality and signs and symptoms of Mental Health. It was also important to find culturally competent resources for this target population. DMH assisted with the advertisement of the project. Workshops were held at churches, community base organizations, Universities (Dominguez Hills). There was a pre-application process. There were 10 facilitators, composed of therapists, faith base knowledgeable experts and community based arts/healers.</p> <p>The women were exposed to new ways on how to deal with mental health issues and coping skills. The discussions were deep and intimate; it appeared that support is highly needed for this target group.</p> <p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Length of time was too short; try to expand the timeline and don't start the implementation projects until after the Holidays.</li> </ul>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre and post surveys felt redundant.</li> <li>• Restructure the workshops and reach people where they are</li> <li>• Get more input from community members about what the needs are.</li> </ul> <p><b>Belanie</b> stated that these projects are unique and cater to the target population this also shows us how to outreach to people and it's important to make the connections to improve service delivery.</p> <p><b>Romalis</b> spoke about the wellness approach used by the capacity building projects and the importance of demonstrating outcomes. He also stated that we may need more of a written response with participants when evaluating the projects.</p> <p><b>Brenda</b> stated that it is really up to the evaluators, however they need to understand the information that is trying to be captured; the Empowerment evaluation model is a good tool to use and we need to add dollars to hire a good evaluator.</p> <p><b>Shavonda</b> commended the project overall and the efforts made by BWW for implementing the Project. The subcommittee will receive a copy of the final AALWMHOP report once it is revised.</p> <p><b>Iyatunde</b> would like to see a project like this continue, not just for the resources but, also to create a space where women can connect and sustain healthy relationships.</p> <p>Brenda stated that it is important to ask how did this project change the person's life? And are they able to access resources better etc? There is an evaluation tool called ( Full frame Intuitive Well-being Indicator survey) and it is important to capture the demographics, ages etc.</p>		
<b>Other Items discussed</b>	<p>The Black Immigrant Youth Empowerment project will to be out for solicitation in a couple of weeks.</p> <p>A brief discussion came up regarding funding of UsCC capacity building projects that were not selected. There is consideration to discuss these projects with Dennis Murata and Terri Boykins for POE funding (Program outreach and engagement dollars).</p>		Mirtala Ward

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	<p><b>Mirtala</b> discussed the AAA UsCC media campaign: We are using media to target the AAA population and help reduce stigma towards mental health in the African-American community and for the messages to be culturally competent.</p> <p><b>Mirtala</b> reported that Desiree will be recording a PSA on KJLH radio station that will target the African-American community.</p> <p>A new Deputy Director was hired for Strategic Planning; her name is Mimi Martinez McKay.</p> <p><b>Mirtala</b> stated that we did not have time to talk about future AAA capacity building projects but, we will discuss this in Sept, Oct. and November.</p> <p><b>Romalis</b> asked the subcommittee to thinking about what subgroups to target for future projects.</p> <p><b>Belanie</b> suggested that the projects should be in correlation to Evidence Base Practices, which would help our community and that can be replicated.</p> <p><b>Brenda Ingraham</b> asked the subcommittee about climate change and the impact on communities of color. Specifically, is DMH apart of that discussion and how climate change impacts people’s mental health? She noted that the NAACP is now having discussions regarding climate change and the effects on communities of color. She wanted to know where DMH stands with climate change and communities of color.</p>		
<b>Next meeting</b>	<p>September 21<sup>st</sup> 2017 695 S. Vermont Blvd Los Angeles, Ca 90059 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm 15<sup>th</sup> Floor Glass Conference Rm.</p>		Desiree DeShay

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Respectfully Submitted,

*Desiree DeShay-Weakley*

LACDMH

Program Support Bureau

Quality Improvement Division

AAA UsCC Liaison