

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

MINUTES – September 21st 2017

Location: DMH 695 S. Vermont Ave.

Los Angeles, CA 90005

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

Date: September 21st, 2017

Present: Romalis Taylor, Mirtala Ward, Desiree DeShay-Weakley, Brenda Ingram, Kandee Lewis, Senait Admassu, Kenisha Trotter, Makesha Jones-Chambers, Mirtala Parada Ward

Participants via conference call: Mesbal Mohamoud, Erlinda Abella, Terri Boykins,

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions	Action Item	Person(s) Responsible
Welcome & Introductions	Attendee introductions		AAA UsCC membership
Review of Minutes	The July 2017 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with no corrections noted. Romalis Taylor asked for a motion; the motion was made by Brenda Ingram and seconded by Senait Admassu. Romalis called for the vote and the motion was carried and minutes were approved.		Co-chairs
SLT Updates	<p>SLT(System Leadership Team) Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Romalis reported that Dr. Sherin’s desire is to have the voices in our mental health community heard and he knows that DMH needs to be more responsive to those in need. It is important to ask how The SLT can be helpful and be an impact in the community and there needs to be more representation from parents and the consumers, who utilize the services. • One of the biggest concerns is what barriers prevent parents and consumers from participating and showing up to the SAAC level and SLT meetings and want to enhance participation in these meetings. • Brenda: stated that incentives to show up are needed, Erlinda agreed and Terry stated that people have their own type of hardships. Fairness and equity issues need to be addressed. We need to change our strategic outreach activities to engage consumers and families. • Develop a strategy on how to reach out to current and previous AAA UsCC members to assess what the needs are, so that they can participate more, know what the needs and issues are in the community as it relates to this meeting as well as other community meetings. For example, the meetings are not in areas that are very accessible to the community and paying for parking may be costly. 		Romalis Taylor Mirtala Ward

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Romalis talked about what the community needs are in order to enhance participation and involvement. He also talked about what can be done to increase community support and get more involved in the SLT meetings. • Romalis also spoke about Mimi McKay, the new Deputy Director for Strategic Planning for the Dept. of Mental Health and her vision to engage community effectively. • Senait stated we should invite Dr. Sherin to a AAA UsCC subcommittee meeting and Brenda stated that it should be in the community where it can be culturally relative and surrounded by food i.e. breaking bread in the AAA community outside of DMH. • Brenda also suggested relationship building with Dr. Sherin first and do a Meet and Greet event. We can then have a subsequent meeting to address the issues and concerns with our AAA UsCC community as well as SLT issues. • Terri spoke about fairness and equity is the recurring theme and she believes that Dr. Sherin validates this concern for all communities. • Romalis reported that it is important to focus on restructuring our AAA UsCC subcommittee in order to get greater participation so that others in our community have a voice. Terri and Brenda agreed. <p>The AAA UsCC subcommittee agreed on three meeting goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distribute and complete a survey to get information on how to improve The AAA UsCC subcommittee membership. 2. Conduct a Meet and Greet event in our community. 3. Invite Dr. Sherin to AAA UsCC subcommittee meeting within the next couple of months to address our concerns as well as community issues. 		

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Other Items discussed	<p>The Black Immigrant Youth Empowerment project will go out for solicitation soon; subcommittee was asked about agencies that could provide reference quotes. We have two at the present time. 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>It was also announced that Makesha Jones-Chambers will be our new DMH Co-Chair for the AAA UsCC subcommittee.</p>		Desiree DeShay
Next meeting	<p style="text-align: center;">November 2nd 2017 African Communities Public Health Coalition 3731 Stocker St. Suite 201 Los Angeles, CA 90008 2pm-4pm</p>		Desiree DeShay

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