

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

**MINUTES – November 17<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**Location: Augustus Hawkins 1720 E. 120th Street  
Los Angeles, Ca 90059**

**(310) 668-4272**

**2:00 pm to 4:00 pm Rm: 1149**

**Date:** November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
**Present:** Romalis Taylor, Kay Ramsey, Belanie Brown, Reba Stevens, Lakeisha Jones, Terri Boykin, Naga Kasarabada, Iyatunde Folayan, Melvin Ashely, Bridget Gordon, Grace Weltman, Desiree DeShay-Weakley, Mesbal Mohamoud and Erlinda Abella.  
**Participants via conference call:** Mirtala Parada Ward, Martin Jones, Shavonda Webber Christmas, Julie Gray, Maurie Edwards, and Wendy Cabil.

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 Reba Stevens 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 that Dr. Jonathan Sherin spoke for the first time at the SLT meeting. The Director talked about supporting those individuals with lived experience.</li> <li>• <b>Romalis</b> also reported that Dr. Debbie Innes-Gomberg, Deputy Director did a presentation on the Overview of the CSS Work Plan Consolidation.</li> <li>• The Program Leads provided an update regarding their programs as it relates to the 3-year-MHSA programs (i.e. FSP and Non-FSP, PEI for Tay Children Adults and Older Adults).</li> </ul>		Romalis Taylor Mirtala Ward
<b>Highlights on the capacity building proposal guidelines.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UsCC Capacity Building Project proposal guidelines were reviewed and in particularly emphasis were given to the proposal process to clarify any questions or concerns.</li> </ul>		Desiree DeShay & Mirtala Ward

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<p><b>New Proposal Presentations</b></p>	<p><b>Proposal IV: Martin Jones: African/African-American UsCC Older Adult Capacity Building Project:</b> The goal of this project is to develop a culturally sensitive and relevant psychoeducational series for older adults connected to faith-based communities. The program description involves clergy and other faith-based leaders presenting “mental wellness” information to older adults and their support systems, to reduce stigma and increase access to mental health services. The purpose of this proposal is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a culturally sensitive and relevant psychoeducational mental wellness training series.</li> <li>• Reduce stigma related to accessing mental health services.</li> <li>• Improve knowledge about mental health services and how to access the full continuum of mental health care.</li> <li>• Promote coordination of services that older adults typically utilize- physical health, mental health, substance use, etc....</li> </ul> <p><b>Proposal VI: Belanie Brown: Ubuntu Project</b>            This is an innovative holistic outreach and learning project that will provide real dialogue with Black/African-American people that are homeless or at risk of being homeless within the African-American's unserved; the underserved and inappropriately served communities including skid row. The dialogue will take place in a non-traditional community center such as faith-based that will provide a sit down meal and thereafter have open dialogue on causes of homelessness and on how would the people like to see the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative move forward. We will look at the design of housing models and supportive services through the lens and relevance of Black/African-American people and families living on the streets or at risk.</p> <p><b>Project Justification:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homelessness is a Humanitarian crises and emergency for people and families in the nation, which includes California and Los Angeles County.</li> </ul>		<p>Desiree DeShay</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• California alone has approximately 115, 000 homeless people, 21% of entire nation's population.</li> <li>• It will take an "Ubuntu Village" to pursue solutions that will achieve results in addressing homelessness--a humanitarian crisis that comes along with mental health, physical health, and substance use issues.</li> </ul> <p><b>Proposal V: Grace Weltman, Communities in Motion Homeless Peers for South Los Angeles (HOPE FOR SOUTH LA)</b> Communities in Motion proposes a 12-month pilot project in South Los Angeles that will develop a culturally relevant training and leadership development curriculum for people with lived homeless experience to be peer homeless outreach workers, targeting chronically homeless people with mental illness in South Los Angeles. This project would recruit a cohort of 8-10 participants (4-5 teams) who will participate in the project by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participating in the review and design of a homeless outreach curriculum specific to the cultural needs of South Los Angeles.</li> <li>• Participating in monthly training and leadership development activities.</li> <li>• Accepting placements in recruited agencies who serve chronic homeless people with mental illness to build and strengthen homeless outreach efforts.</li> </ul> <p>A matching stipend program will be developed with selected agencies to compensate participants for their contributions.</p> <p><b>Proposal VII: The New You Center, Inc. (TNYC, Inc.) Underrepresented Somali and Other Black Immigrant and Refugee Populations Capacity Building Project.</b> The project will serve as a continuum of the first phase of the capacity building project within the Somali and other Black immigrant communities located in SPA 6. We will continue to target community members affected by societal factors such as stigma, linguistic isolation, discrimination, and exclusion. The proposed project will continue to serve viable, evidenced-based interventions to facilitate</p>		

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	<p>healing and improvement in the lives of this under-served community. This project proposal will include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To continue outreach and engagement for serve area 6 under-served African-Immigrant population.</li> <li>• To serve as a resource for the DMH UsCC committee in capacity building among its' resident population.</li> <li>• To continue implementing a sustainable plan to improve the lives of this neglected community in terms of wellness, self-management and the ability to lead productive lives.</li> </ul> <p><b>Proposal VIII: Bridgette Gordon; Circles &amp; Connections – African American Women at all Ages and Stages.</b></p> <p>This would be a yearlong project focused on reducing stress, solving problems and increasing interpersonal connection to improve mental health for African American Women in Los Angeles County. Facilitators support African American Women in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Navigating relationships.</li> <li>• Improving sexual and reproductive health for women with intimate partners and their families.</li> <li>• Promote and prepare women to have non-judgmental conversations about sexual and reproductive health with family and intimate partner.</li> <li>• Provide conflict resolution skills; Provide relationship building skills.</li> </ul> <p>The Purpose...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve relationships within African American families; 2 Risk reduction intervention for intimate partner violence, sexually transmitted infections and HIV. The reason is because the Los Angeles County 'Community Health Assessment 2015' states: "Black women have the lowest life</li> </ul>		

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	<p>expectancy and highest mortality rates from many chronic medical conditions compared to other women in the County. Even though black women report better access to health care, they also face particular barriers to health such as high rates of exposure to violence, communicable diseases, and smoking, thus demonstrating the complex interplay of factors contributing to disparities.”</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> Town Hall Forum took place on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 from 4pm-7pm at Darby Park-Dr. MLK JR Community Center.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were 146 participants that attended the town hall forum.</li> </ul> <p><b>African-American Woman Leadership and Wellness Mental Health Outreach Project: Black Woman For Wellness (Jan Robinson)</b>            Completed the first phase of the project, which included the development of the curriculum, resource guide, flyer and Pre and Posttest.</p>		<p>Shavonda Christmas Webber</p> <p>lyatunde Folayan</p>
<p><b>Other Items discussed</b></p>	<p><b>Voting:</b> The voting for the 2016-2017 capacity building projects proposal will be complete via survey monkey and will only be sent to subcommittee members who have voting privileges. They must have attended 50% of the UsCC AAA meetings from November 2015 through November 2016. The voting will take place in December of 2016.</p>	<p>Develop the eligibility list and prepare the survey monkey voting process.</p>	
<p><b>Next meeting</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup> 2016, 2:00 pm to 4:00pm            695 S. Vermont Blvd            Los Angeles, Ca 90059            2:00 pm to 4:00 pm            15<sup>th</sup> Floor Glass Conference Rm.</p>		<p>Desiree DeShay</p>

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