

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

MINUTES – May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Location: 695 S. Vermont 15<sup>th</sup> floor conference room  
Los Angeles, California

**ATTENDEES:** Ana Suarez, Belanie Brown, Mirtala Parada Ward, Martin Jones, Mary Kim, Mesbelm Mohamoud, Desiree DeShay, Karen Gunn, Richard Antoine, Romalis Taylor, Terri Boykins, Treva Blackwell, Angel Baker, Erlinda Abella, Brenda Monme, Steven Gallo, Mike Moultrie,, Naga Kasarabada, Maurine Edwards, Carlotta Childs-Seagle,

**Via phone:** Sharon Lyle

**Meeting called to order@2:05: WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS**

**DISCUSSIONS**

**ACTION STEPS**

**Last Meeting**

- Minutes reviewed and approved; Belanie Brown clarified that the subcommittee originally voted for the AAA TAY population for the MH promoters program and second by Martin Jones.

**DMH Updates Capacity Building Projects Update**

- Black Male Mental Health Awareness Campaign (2014-2015); sent for solicitation in April 2016, will be awarded in the coming weeks.
- African-American Women Leadership and Wellness Mental Health Outreach Project (2015-2016) sent for solicitation in April 2016, will be awarded in the coming weeks.
- African-Immigrant & Refugee Mental Health Outreach Project 2015-2016) sent for solicitation in April 2016, will be awarded in the coming weeks.
- Romalis suggested that all data collected by DMH pertaining to the AAA projects are not pass or fail and we need to have tools to measures recommendations on how to improve them when outcomes are presented.
- Sierra Leone project was completed on 4/30/16. The draft summary report has been submitted and Mirtala will share the findings with the AAA subcommittee once finalized.

- ISD put projects have gone out to bid

**Terri Boykins(Deputy Director SA6)**

**Discussed the TAY Programs/initiatives**

- TAY Programs are mostly serviced in community based organizations.
- TAY population is concentrated in the Juvenile Justice system and black and brown over represented. Halls, campus, homeless CSEC (Commercial Sexually Exploited Children which is in collaboration with DCFS) section; LGBTQ2S are not mutually exclusive from the issues stated above as TAY youth.
- Terri also spoke about My Brother’s Keeper which is an initiative developed under President Obama. Two years ago the a Presidential Memorandum was signed(2014) establishing the My Brother’s Keeper (MBK) Task Force (the Task Force), a coordinated Federal effort to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color and ensure that all young people can reach their full potential.
- Terri also discussed the challenge of meeting the TAY where they are to support them. We currently have eight drop-in centers; five were established this year and are in all service areas. They are also

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working on employment projects and 80 permanent supporting housing units have been established partnering with community building at (87<sup>th</sup>& Vermont); TAY-Navigators are represented in each SA's. Admin is also working with NAMI-TAY and the young black and brown population.

- SAMHSA (Substance abuse Mental Health Service Administration) grant: (started and juvenile hall, psycho-education, resources, parent education) SAMHSA has doubled the funding but wants DMH to change the model and go into the communities, working with diversion programs. There are 13 campus Four Juvenile Halls and less than 1000 in these systems.
- All Five Los Angeles districts are getting dollars to do "A New Direction Program" DMH needs to be active participants and try to merge/collaboration so that the services are not duplicated.
- Terri stated that TAY DMH is trying to do work on the low-end so TAY doesn't have work on the high-end to assist with self-sufficiency linkage, education, employment, housing, working with families and communities.
- Terri stated that it is important to push for African-Immigrant programs.
- It was also discussed that funding will be found for the TAY project, subcommittee member (Sharon stated this is very important not to skip TAY and Romalis stated that he would like to see a lay-out of how a TAY project would look.

**Mental Health Promoters Project Presentation/Update – Ms. Ana Suarez**

- Target population needed to be clarified for the Promoters project it was meant especially for the AAA immigrant population. This project is a community defined practice and we need to stay true the model as it was initially designed.
- Ana stated African immigrants have fear of accessing services due to deportation, stigma of mental illness and no real knowledge of what Mental Health is.
- Sub-committee re-voted for Somali immigrants to be the focus group; the votes were as follows Somali received 5 votes, Nigerian received 1 vote and Ethiopian received 3 votes.
- Sharon Lyle declined to vote on the Promoters re-vote.
- Focus Group will be scheduled with Somali community, information will be sent to Mesbelm.

<p><b>AAA Informational Mental Health Brochures – Mr. Richard Antoine</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The online voting did not go well. 54% of people have limited reading skills AA is the largest population and then focus turns to the other African groups.</li> <li>• Richard discussed his progress with the brochure and how he worked with Dr. Karen Gunn to capture the wording used for the brochure needed to simple and keep text short so people will want to engage. Strategic placement of the words on the brochure was also essential to make Brochure effective and people will read the material.</li> <li>• Richard also worked with Sharon Lyles to capture important elements in the AA community that need to be captured on the brochure.</li> <li>• It was suggested by Dr. Gunn suggested resources from agencies in the community should be a part of the resources page.</li> <li>• Belanie Brown made a motion to accept the brochures content with revisions and recommendations noted and changes will be made accordingly based on subcommittee suggestions. Motion was seconded by Erlinda Abella</li> <li>• Romalis called for the vote, motioned passed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Separatediscussion regarding Life Links Brochure:</b> Update community resources online (AA resource guide to be re-printed and available online as well).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Richard will re-send the brochure w/ updated images subcommittee final review.</li> <li>• Mirtala will provide resource information to Richard, the suggestion of 211, 800 #, Navigators?? and directly operated clinics possibly use the hyperlink and resource the CBO's w/ county.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Other Discussion</b></p> <p>Romalis wants AAA-subcommittee to start focusing on projects for the next fiscal year; look at core principles and values when looking at targeted programs for the AAA community and learn to collaborate with the DMH more effectively.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subcommittees to come with ideas from the community about next year projects.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Announcements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• African-American Mental Health Conference Planning Committee 2017 sign-up discussed; Conference will be February 2017</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Next Meeting TBA</b></p>	