

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

MINUTES – July 21st, 2016

Location: 695 S. Vermont 15th floor conference room
Los Angeles, California
2pm-4pm

ATTENDEES: Mirtala Parada Ward, Martin Jones, Mesbelm Mohamoud, Desiree DeShay, Romalis Taylor, Erlinda Abella, Mike Moultrie, Naga Kasarabada, Lisha Singleton, Carlotta Childs-Seagle, Senait Admassu, Angelita Diaz-Akahori, Jeff Gorsuch, Su Jung Kim

Via phone: Sharon Lyle, Belanie Brown and Reba Stevens

Meeting called to order@2:11pm WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS	
DISCUSSIONS	ACTION STEPS
<p>Last Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes were reviewed and approved with corrections noted. Motion was made to approve the minutes by Mike Moultrie and the motion was seconded by Erlinda Abella. 	
<p>DMH Updates Capacity Building Projects Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Black Male Mental Health Awareness Campaign project was awarded to Shavonda Webber-Christmas Consulting, and the project coordinator will be Shavonda Webber- Christmas. The African-American Women Leadership and Wellness Mental Health Outreach Project was awarded to Black Women for Wellness and the project coordinator will be Jan Robinson. The African-Immigrant & Refugee Mental Health Outreach Project was awarded to the African Coalition and the project coordinator will be Senait Admassu. Romalis suggested that all data collected by DMH pertaining to the AAA projects are not pass or fail. Instead, the outcomes need to be collected and used for recommendations on how to improve community outreach efforts. Sierra Leona project was completed and a copy of the executive summary was shared with the group. A copy was distributed to the subcommittee members. The evaluation and executive summary was completed by Dr. Brooks from UCLA. Senait said that this was a different project and that it focused on mental health, Ebola and immigration issues in the African immigrant community. Senait thanked the past and present DMH staff for their collaborative efforts. Romalis said that the community was pleased with the Sierra Leone project and acknowledged DMH along with Senator Karen Bass for working with the African immigrant community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program implementation
<p>Underserved Cultural Communities(UsCC) Graduate Recruitment Educational Program Discussed the Financial Incentive Programs for all of the UsCC groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two people for each UsCC group will be targeted to this program. We are looking at people who possess and bachelor's degree. There are two options to this program: Option one is an Internship and Graduate program and Option two is a two year Graduate program; there is an application and interview process, this program is for years 2016/2017-/2017/2018. This is the first type of program of its kind for the WET training division. Angelita asked the subcommittee members if they could recommend any students/community members to 	

apply for this internship experience.

- Erlinda asked if the recommendations can be for those already working in the field. Angelita stated “yes”.
- Carlotta stated that we need to look at language and culture considerations to launch this program.
- Sharon Lyle asked the question if there were any consideration for the visibly impaired; deaf and hard of hearing with regards to this program? Angelita stated the deaf and hard of hearing community would be targeted but not the visibly impaired.
- Angelita clarified that this program is targeting to serve the most unserved communities within our county; and she said the application should be ready in the next couple of weeks.

DMH Updates

- UsCC Rules and Agreements: Mirtala said we are proposing one uniform document for all the UsCC subcommittees. We are presenting this document for review, updates and corrections as it was last update in 2009.
- Naga stated that it is important for the subcommittee members to attend subcommittee meetings in order to have voting power. Subcommittee members need to have at least 51% participation in order to have voting rights; it was 75% previously. Mirtala also stated that survey monkey will be used for the on-line voting as well.
- Romalis reiterated that it was important to let subcommittee members know that in order vote they need to attend and participate in the meetings. He also suggested the recruitment of new members.
- Mirtala stated that UsCC staff would be attending the SAAC Committee Meetings in the fall and will be conducting presentations about the UsCC subcommittee community meetings. Mirtala also reported the AAA co-chairs re-elections would take place in the coming meetings.
- During the meeting, a full review of the document was completed and the subcommittee provided their feedback and recommendations.
- Belanie provided feedback and suggested that the language for both the UsCC members and DMH Staff be equal in their commitment to serving UsCC members.
- A Motion was made by Mike Moultrie to pass the Rules and Agreements with the proposed changes. It was seconded by Erlinda Abella and the motion was passed.

- Pending DMH review and approval.

AAA Informational Mental Health Brochures –

- Mirtala said that the AAA brochure is in the final draft form and will be ready to go to final print soon.
- There are a few updates and corrections with the back cover and some of the translations for the other AAA brochures need to be revised and reviewed.
- Mirtala thanked Mesbal, Senait and Dr. Gunn for all their contributions with African Brochures.
- There was a discussion about some of the language on the AAA Brochure regarding using the words “prejudice and racism” and it was concluded that the language would be a part of the brochures. For the back cover of the brochure, the information is individualized for each of the targeted communities.
- It was recommended by Reba Stevens to use Augustus F. Hawkins on the back cover of the brochures instead of Compton mental health because it offers more of a variety of services and would be the better resource option in SA 6. A motion was made by Reba Stevens and seconded by Martin Jones. The vote was called and the group voted in favor of making the change.
- Carlotta asked to run the brochures by SAAC co-chairs; however it was stated by Mirtala and Romalis that all service areas would receive these brochures. Carlotta added that we need to make a statement that indicates that there are more resources available throughout DMH and there should be a number to call. Carlotta made a motion and Erlinda seconded. Martin Jones added some discussion about the language and how it should be stated on the back of the brochure. Martin stated, “It would say something like to access additional locations and resources, please visit us at <http://lacdmh.lacounty.gov/appASPNET/ServiceLocator/>”.
- Romalis stated we can still send it to the SAAC co-chairs, but only correctional changes would be considered because we have been working on this brochure for over 6 years. Recommendation for other changes could be considered for later revision of the brochures. Romalis and Mirtala both stated that we need to get this project finalized and printed.
- Life Links: Romalis stated that we are working to provide updates, amendments and corrections to get this booklet updated and reprinted. Desiree discussed that the corrections, updates and changes have been made. We will send this out to SAAC co-chairs to review the Life Links booklet and help to identify agencies that can be added. We will also send the booklet out to the AAA sub-committee members to review and make suggestions and amendments.
- Carlotta asked if the Life Links booklet would be ready for the African-American Conference. She also stated that the conference will be at the LAX Sheraton in February 2016. She will send out information regarding the conference to the subcommittees.

- Pending final brochures and SRF for printing.

Other Discussion

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. He stated that we need to focus on the Older adult population. Martin Jones stated that they have Outreach and Engagement activities with older adults in some faith based communities. The goal is to...

- Reduce stigma reduction
- Promote mental health education
- Support for caregivers of older adults

Other topics to promote wellness would be emphasized such as:

- Good Sleep

- Subcommittees to come with ideas from the community about next year projects.

- Resiliency
- Depression
- Delirium and Dementia
- Preserving Memory

Announcements

- Next meeting will focus on brainstorming for future AAA UsCC projects.
- Carlotta announced to contact her directly if members would like to join the African-American Mental Health Conference Planning Committee 2017. There is still time to sign-up.

Next Meeting; August 25th 2:00pm - 4:00pm 15th floor Glass Conference Room.