

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH  
AFRICAN/AFRICAN AMERICAN UsCC SUBCOMMITTEE  
MINUTES – October 20<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**Location: 695 S. Vermont 15th floor conference room  
Los Angeles, California  
2:30pm- 4:30pm**

**Date:** October 20<sup>th</sup> , 2016

**Present:** Dr. Karen Gunn, Senait Admassu, Desiree DeShay, Romalis Taylor, Mirtala Parada Ward, Kay Ramsey, Belanie Brown, Shavonda Webber Christmas, Nyabingi Kuti

**Participants via conference call:** Sharon Lyle, Reba Stevens, Catherine Clay, Julie Gray, Lakeisha Jones, Mesbal Mohamoud and Erlinda Abella

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>	October 2016 meeting minutes reviewed and approved with corrections noted. Dr. Karen Gunn made a motion to approve the minutes and Erlinda Abella 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. Johnathan Sherin is the new Department of Mental Health Director. His first day of work at the DMH will be November 1, 2016. His previous job was as the Chief Medical officer of Volunteers of America.</li> <li>• <b>Mirtala</b> spoke about the budgetary update; the summary report of all unspent monies by the Department is \$300 million we have a huge surplus. The Department needs to find ways to enhance and increase their services. This is a great opportunity to possibly increase the funding for the UsCC Capacity Building Projects.</li> <li>• The program leads all gave updates regarding their programs as it relates to the 3-year-MHSA programs i.e. FSP, PEI for Tay Children Adults and Older Adults.</li> <li>• Romalis encouraged subcommittee members to join the 3-year MHSA workgroups. He stated that we need more African-American providers and consumers to be a part of the planning process.</li> <li>• Catherine Clay reported that SA6 needs to be more inclusive, informed and aligned with the Department of Mental Health planning and program</li> </ul>		Romalis Taylor Mirtala Ward

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	<p>process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mirtala discussed that the workgroups are setting priorities and the final recommendations will be discussed at the November 2016 SLT meeting and subcommittee members were encouraged to attend including Catherine Clay (President of the Los Angeles Client Coalition).</li> <li>• Belanie inquired about existing prevention programs in the Department.</li> <li>• Mirtala stated that the focus has been on early intervention, and not prevention.</li> <li>• Dr. Gunn wanted an explanation about the 300 million surpluses and if the dollars will roll-over to the next fiscal year.</li> <li>• Mirtala stated that one of the main reasons why the Department has such a large surplus is due to the Affordable Health Care Act(AHCA), more specifically individual within 138% federal poverty level now qualify for medical services.</li> <li>• FSP is the only mental health program that provides housing services to consumers.</li> <li>• Dr. Gunn wants to inform the community on the surplus and assess how to develop programs to better serve ethnic communities</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Co-Chair Re-election/ Voting</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mirtala</b> informed the subcommittee group that only one person was nominated for the community co-chair position and that there was a second person nominated after the nominations were closed.</li> <li>• Mirtala made following motion; should the second person be added to the voting ballot though the seconded name was submitted after the due date. The motion was seconded by Belanie Brown. The motion failed and the voting process began with one name on the Ballot. The voting took place; four ballots were cast in-person and members who were on the phone were asked to vote via email but instead they verbally casted via phone.</li> </ul>	<p>Open discussion</p>	<p>Mirtala Ward Desiree DeShay</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Romalis was re-elected as the AAA UsCC community Co-chairman</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Proposals Capacity Building Projects Presentations</b></p>	<p><b>Proposal I: Kay Ramsey: TEDX Talk: Persevering Beyond Adversity</b>            Kay Ramsey presented a proposal called Persevering beyond adversity is a TedX Talk discussing how stakeholders are creating change in the African-American community in areas of education, justice and employment while incorporating mental health services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Belanie Brown</b> asked; how does this tie-in to Mental Health?</li> <li>• <b>Kay</b> responded the following that it ties into</li> <li>• PTSD/Black Lives Matter, looking at fighting and injustice</li> <li>• ADHD, knowing what is going on if a child has an I.E.P.</li> <li>• Issue of unemployment</li> <li>• <b>Belanie Brown</b> suggested including strategies that address prevention, disparities and gaps in the community.</li> <li>• <b>Romalis</b>: recommended pre and post to a part of this project in order to collect outcomes.</li> <li>• Dr. Gunn suggested including topics such as human relations and organizations, and other “micro-aggressions” such as the use of the N-word.</li> </ul> <p><b>Proposal II: Senait Admassu: African Youth Empowerment Project:</b>            The African Communities Public Health Coalition (ACPHC) proposes a six months innovative project entitled ‘African Youth Empowerment Project (AYEP)’. This project will be designed to address dynamic risk factors of the African descendants TAY. The loss of culture experienced by many first and second generations African youth; and the separation from their homeland creates a lack of connectedness to their community.</p> <p>Projective objective:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 ) To reduce isolation and suicide rates</li> <li>2) Increase knowledge of mental health resources</li> <li>3) Increase positive coping mechanisms</li> </ol>		Desiree DeShay

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Belanie Brown:</b> reminded the subcommittee that they had agreed to not implement a TAY project as there are strategies that will be implemented under INN2.</li> </ul> <p><b>Proposal III: Julie Gray: Family Dinner: Recreational and Self Care Project</b> This project being a novel, creative and non-traditional mental health project that will target unserved or underserved African-American Families in SPA6. It will serve to engage families in conversations regarding healthy life style options and how that relates to mental health. The focus is to impact the family and bring them back together using a “Dinner Table Conversation” venue. conversation regarding</p> <p><b>Proposal IV: Nyabingi Kuti: Outreach to African American Males in South L.A.</b> This project will conduct an outreach campaign targeting African-American males in South LA. A series of mental health awareness forums will be held at faith and community based organization in South LA. <b>Projective Objective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve mental health services</li> <li>• Reduce the stigma in the African-American community associated with mental health.</li> <li>• Look for gaps in mental health services in South L.A.</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Kuti</b> reported that in his opinion that in Los Angeles there are not enough programs for the African-American males in the service area 6 community and they are ineffective.</li> </ul> <p><b>Proposal V: Sharon Lyle: Skid- Row Project</b> This project would take a tour of skid-row with joint agencies not just mental health to assess the resources, supports and needs of the homeless population. The goal would be to train advocates to provide assessments and other needs to the people of Skid Row. In this proposal advocates will be trained to do assessments in the Skid Row area. Sharon states Dr. Katts and Dr. John Sherin will join in this effort.</p>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Belanie Brown called the homelessness situation on Skid- Row an “Humanitarian Crisis”</li> </ul>		
<b>Current Capacity Project updates:</b>	<p><b>Proposal I: Shavonda Webber Christmas: Black Male Mental Health Awareness Campaign Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town Hall; Wednesday November 16<sup>th</sup> 4-7pm Darby Park-Dr. MLK JR Community Center targeting 300 community members.</li> <li>Volunteers have been confirmed to assist with the event.</li> </ul> <p><b>Proposal II: Senait Admassu: The African Immigrants and Refugees Mental Health Outreach Project</b> Completed the first phase of the project. She is starting on the next phase which is Outreach and Recruitment of Participants.</p>		Shavonda Christmas Webber  Senait Admassu
<b>Other Items discussed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Senait also talked about taking a team down to San Diego to assist the Hattian community in regarding mental health issues and children really struggling. The church is the only provider to assist. Advocacy groups 2000 people in San Bernardino detention center/ Hattians and Somalins.</li> <li>Reba asked about the process of collecting the proposals and how the proposals will be prioritized.</li> </ul>		Senait Admassu
<b>Next meeting</b>	Thursday, November 17 <sup>th</sup> 2016, 2:00 pm to 4:00 Augustus Hawkins Address		Desiree

Respectfully Submitted,

*Desiree DeShay-Weekley*

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LACDMH

Program Support Bureau

Quality Improvement Division

AAA UsCC Liaison