

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS**

**LGBTQI2-S Conference Planning / UsCC Subcommittee Meeting
MEETING MINUTES**

April 4, 2019
2:00PM – 4:00PM
In The Meantime

Present: Johana Lozano, Terri Jay, Johnathan Talamantes, riku Matsuda, Jeffrey Fuentes, Lenwood Patterson, Louis Smith III, Victor Guerra Cardoza, Richard Zaldivar, Kathryn Aguenza, Brian Navarro, Gustavo Velez, Josue Vega, Troy Isaac, Greg Wilson, Isaias Guzman, Sharon Chapman, Danielle Samuel, Shaka (?), Jeffrey King
By phone: Renato Lira, Ana Bernal, Blair Ralston, Jennifer Jiries, Rebecca Russell, Joseph (?), Bill Sive, and Yamonte Cooper
UsCC Admin: Mirtala Parada Ward, Kelly Wilkerson, Connie Acosta Castaneda

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
Welcome/ Introductions	Attendee introductions.
Review of minutes	Approved March 7 th 2019 meeting minutes. The minutes are in draft form because we want to add the RAND Presentation.
UsCC Business	<p>Brian Navarro:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> African American Conference that took place at the Convention Center – funded through DMH and did not use the funds that are provided to UsCC subcommittees-this feels unfair-we should be able to have that type of funding. <p>Johana Lozano:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time and location of the LGBTQI2-S subcommittee meetings are not accessible to consumers-sometimes the location changes- some individuals may not feel safe going to a new place every time. <p>Terri Jay:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handed out the Membership Code of Conduct Form and reviewed this document with the group. Asked the subcommittee members to please sign and date and turn it in. Signed forms received during meeting from Brian Navarro, Jeffrey Fuentes, Johnathon Talamantes, Terri Jay, and Victor Guerra-Cardoza. <p>Jeffrey King:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommends that all agendas be prepared in advance for approval by all those present including those that are on the phone moving forward. <p>Mirtala Parada Ward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-Chair Election Results; the vote was completed and we have a winner-new co-chair will be announced next week.

Community Stakeholder Concerns – Discussion

1. First concern was related to the lack of a black LGBTQI2-S workshop at the upcoming conference.

Yamonte Cooper:

- There is not a workshop that addresses the unique experiences of the Black LGBTQ+ community this year or at the last conference – it is important that it be addressed on a regular basis because there is a different experience of being LGBTQ+ and also dealing with anti-blackness.
- Recommends this be addressed on a regular basis at the conferences.

Lenwood Patterson:

- Agreed with Yamonte and asked what it will take to get that workshop into the conference.

Kelly Wilkerson:

- Shared process of workshop selection: open call for workshop ideas/topics, based on those ideas and feedback received at previous year's conference, the topics for the workshops are solidified. This is followed by a call for workshop proposals based on those topics. The workshops are then voted on (based on the voting guidelines in the by-laws including attendance in person or by phone at 50% of the meetings over the past 12 consecutive months).

Jeffrey King:

- Asked whether there was a proposal for this workshop.

Kelly Wilkerson:

- One proposal submitted related to Black LGB Youth by Danielle Samuel from Strength United.
- During the voting, this proposal was grouped with the youth proposals, which were requested from last year's conference. Anything that was related to youth was voted on together.

Jeffrey King:

- Shared concerns regarding fairness and equality concerning doubly marginalized people.
- Individuals who come to the table want to be heard as Lesbians, Trans, Black, Latino, API but feel excluded in that process.
- Shared distrust of the process and the use of Survey Monkey as it feels siloed within DMH.
- Recommends that voting take place during the meetings.
- Shared concerns that it will become about race and race politics and that people will be pinned against each other as Black, Latino, API people who want to be heard and to be seen.
- Recommends moving beyond race to start looking at inclusiveness of everybody that is represented at this table – that it be collaborative and inclusive of all.

Troy Isaac:

- Shared concerns regarding the lack of an LGBTQ+ specific workshop at the African American conference and how

that made him feel marginalized.

- Shared concern that a similar thing would happen at this conference with the lack of a Black LGBTQ+ specific workshop.

Richard Zaldivar:

- Shared concerns that other groups are not being discussed as well including the API community, the Middle Eastern community, and the Queer Muslim community.
- Discussed the voting process and that everyone has access to that process (i.e. attend 50% of the meetings and you get to vote on whatever happens in the subcommittee). This feels fair because everyone has access to that process and it requires accountability-if you want your voice heard you have to be there.
- Recommends that others bring people to the meetings, do outreach and bring people from the community.
- Expressed a need to have Black voices at the table, and on a consistent basis. Also youth.
- Recommends that the subcommittee proactively look at how do we bring people together and create a safe space, so we can heal and learn.

Johana Lozano:

- Shared that she is the Access Ambassador for the Los Angeles region.
- Acknowledged Jeffrey King's request for the voting to run in-house instead of Survey Monkey.
- Recommends the subcommittee look at the MHSA guidelines and follow those as they are designed to be transparent.

Jeffery King:

- Recommended that Yamonte's workshop be added to the conference.

Brian Navarro:

- Shared his concern in how the African American Conference was funded through DMH (all the UsCC subcommittees are provided money every year to do program including the AAA UsCC subcommittee).
- Feels there is a scarcity of resources which then pits the groups against each other.
- Recommended that the conferences be done by the community with equal funding from DMH that is not connected to the UsCC funding.

Troy Isaac:

- Expressed concern that it becomes about who stacks the room the most, then they get heard the most (i.e. "If I had 40 African Americans here then we're going to take over the agenda, because 40 of us are going to be here and 40 of us are going to be able to vote and be here at 50% of the meetings.").
- Recommended that the committee members all look out for each other.

Yamonte Cooper:

- Expressed concern regarding statements made about the African American Mental Health Conference. Shared that this conference is not every year and that the speakers are paid the same amount as at the LGBTQI2-S conference.
- Discussed racial macroaggressions (i.e. making comments and saying we should focus on all these different groups,

when we are specifically talking about one population).

- Discussed fairness-if any group is colonizing a committee or organization, that is not equitable.
- Recommended DMH and the subcommittee create an environment that makes Black people feel welcomed and makes them feel like they have a voice.

Terri Jay:

- Recommends that the subcommittee make a decision regarding whether or not to add a Black LGBTQ workshop at the upcoming conference.

Mirtala Parada Ward:

- Providing clarification regarding the African American conference and the different funding sources.
- Asked subcommittee to decide if they would like to add another workshop as there is still a window of time to do that.

Jeffrey King:

- Recommends voting on this now.

Mirtala Parada Ward:

- Gave reminder about the voting guidelines in the by-laws. The group can decide if they would like to bypass those voting guidelines and vote now. Shared regarding the attendance tracking for the meetings.

Jeffrey King:

- Shared concern regarding the attendance tracking for the meetings and it being siloed within DMH.
- Recommends it should be on the table and the co-chairs should be responsible to let the subcommittee know who the voting members are.
- Expressed concern that he had attended 50% of the meetings but was not allowed to vote.

Greg Wilson:

- Inquired regarding DMH funding being rolled over and recommended that DMH use unspent dollars when it comes to UsCC groups looking for funding.

Mirtala Parada Ward:

- Will take that feedback to Mimi Martinez McKay, Deputy Director of Strategic Communications.
- Recommended that the subcommittee consider drafting a formal letter to Dr. Sherin making this recommendation.

Jeffrey King:

- Recommended considering equity parity as it relates to funding – look at the funding for the UsCCs as it relates to creating meaningful programs for underserved communities.
- Shared concerns that this process pits organizations against one another and recommends that the subcommittee request additional funding and that the projects that the funding is used for be more collaborative and inclusive of everyone so that groups are not being pitted against one another – projects that are rolled out should have an impact on the broader community, not just one segmented community.

- Also suggests that the programming for future conference continue to be looked at to ensure that it is fair and equitable.
- Discussed voting process and how certain agencies can have a large number of staff attend, which will affect the voting and make it not fair or equitable.
- Recommends that only one individual from any agency be allowed to vote (i.e. APLA, In The Meantime, The Wall Las Memorias, etc.).

Richard Zaldivar:

- Recommended the conversation stay focused on the conference at this time, not on the funding.
- Shared that regardless of who attends the meetings, it should be about mentorship and bringing voices to the table that come from different age groups, different lenses, and different perspectives.
- Recommended taking a step back and looking at the bigger picture – how do we make the conference a success this year? How are we outreaching and making sure that everyone is included?
- How many voting members are in the room? **Kelly Wilkerson:** I do not have the tally with me. There were eight meetings not including this one over the last past 12 months so you would have had to attend four of those meetings.
- Asked that voting members move forward with voting on whether or not to add a workshop focused on the Black LGBTQ+ community.

Jeffrey King:

- Is the voting based on starting this past January or last year? **Mirtala Parada Ward:** We look at the meeting attendance over the last 12 months. **Jeffrey King:** Where is that documented? **Mirtala Parada Ward:** In the by-laws which are also on the DMH website. **Jeffrey King:** I am saying that every subcommittee and I have been on a thousand of them, they start again from the beginning of the year, or unless it specifically states something different, then it should follow that. It is just a standard protocol.

Terri Jay:

- As co-chair, made a motion to move forward with voting on this topic with the individuals in the room and on the phone.

Danielle Samuel:

- Offered to remove her workshop proposal as she is a new member.

Renato Lira:

- Also recommending that only one person from any agency vote as his organization does not have a lot of staff that can participate and vote.

Jeffrey King:

- Recommended that in the future the subcommittee review the by-laws and amend them to be fair and that in a future meeting the subcommittee discuss funding and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

Yamonte Cooper:

- Pointed out that if this was not an issue, the subcommittee would not be discussing it.
- Expressed concern that coded language is being used which can minimize and isolate people that are passionate about the oppression they experience within the LGBTQ+ community.
- Challenged everyone to explore their discomfort and where it comes from rather than projecting it on to others.

Johana Lozano:

- Recommended that the subcommittee abide by the guidelines set forth in MHSA.

Jeffrey King:

- Expressed concern that voting members were not notified and that none of the workshop proposals should be excluded, including Danielle Samuel's proposal. **Kelly Wilkerson:** Several emails were sent out notifying those with voting privileges based on the by-laws (i.e. attendance in person or by phone at 50% of the meetings over the past 12 consecutive months).

All members present at the table voted yes on adding a ninth workshop focused on the Black LGBTQ+ community.

Phone Vote:

Ana Bernal: I vote yes, a 100% yes.

Yamonte Cooper: Yamonte, I vote yes.

Bill Sive: Yes.

Renato Lira: Yes.

Rebecca Russell: Yes.

Terri Jay:

- Reiterated the results of the vote, a ninth workshop will be added and the proposal will be voted on.
2. Second concern was that there were some questions regarding DMH staff and their involvement in the process of this subcommittee, what their role is and whether this subcommittee is driven by the agenda or DMH staff of if it really is a true stakeholder process.

Brain Navarro:

- Shared that he is a DMH staff, but is very invested in the subcommittee and being a part of the community. Reiterated that he attends the meeting as a community member, not a DMH employee.

Jeffrey King:

- Expressed concern that DMH Administration, specifically UsCC management, over influences this process, despite not being a part of the LGBTQI2-S community.
- Stated that Mirtala is an ally to the community, but is not a member of the LGBTQI2-S community and has overly influenced the process.
- Stated that he had witnessed Mirtala put votes in her purse and come back and deliver the results, which caused distrust in the process.

Richard Zaldivar:

- “Point, out of order.”

Jeffrey King:

- Reiterated that this is what he witnessed and that the process is not inclusive or transparent.
- Reiterated the recommendations he made earlier with regards to the voting process, by-laws, and funding.
- Expressed concerns over internalized homophobia – where is there a safe space for us to come together to advocate as a collective for each other?
- Recommended the subcommittee come up with a set of recommendations on how this body can move forward in fairness and inclusion for everybody.

Terri Jay:

- Recommended that these be added to the agenda for the next meeting.
- Reiterated that members should abide by the Code of Conduct and be respectful towards one another.
- Discussed this group being a community stakeholder body and should be inclusive of everybody, including allies.
- Expressed discomfort with personal attacks pointed towards any one particular person.

Richard Zaldivar:

- Expressed frustration at accusations towards DMH Administration hiding votes.
- Shared the importance of moving forward with respect and dignity.

Troy Isaac:

Did that happen? **Mirtala Parada Ward:** No, I do not put any votes in my purse. I might put a bunch of papers, notes, and recommendations that I have taken here, I will grab these papers and put them in my bag because I’m going to take them to work. I do that.

Greg Wilson:

- Inquired regarding the MHSA laws and guidelines.

Mirtala Parada Ward:

- Provided overview of the MHSA guidelines and how the UsCC subcommittees were developed, including new developments such as YourDMH.
- Provided overview of UsCC capacity building projects development and process.
- Asked Johanna Lozano if she can share some of the MHSA laws with the group via email.

Jeffrey King:

With regards to voting guidelines, can DMH employees be included in that 50% that you spoke about? Can you vote?

Mirtala Parada Ward: No, my role is to provide administrative oversight of this unit, not to vote.

Terri Jay:

Recommended adding the by-laws to the next agenda. **Kelly to email out by-laws and YourDMH guidelines prior to next meeting.**

Johana Lozano:

- Shared that YourDMH is still a live document and so are the MHPA guidelines.

Yamonte Cooper:

- Recommended DMH look at why people do not attend the meetings. Find out what it is about the meetings that are not appealing.
- Recommended that the subcommittee and DMH look at the lack of cultural responsiveness.

Gustavo Velez:

- Shared his desire to remain engaged in the subcommittee and to build up the next generation of leadership.
- Shared concern if only one person from an agency is allowed to attend and participate, he would like to continue being involved and allowed to participate.

Troy Isaac:

- Clarified that the discussion was focused on everyone being allowed to attend, but only one vote per agency. You can bring six people but your agency can only have one vote.

Meeting adjourned at 4:09pm