

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH  
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT DIVISION**

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

July 11th, 2019

2:00PM – 4:00PM

Phoenix House – Lake View Terrace

**Present:** Jennifer Jiries, Josue Vega, Mastaneh Moghadam, Hector Ramirez, Isaias Guzman, Renato Lira, Danielle Hurwitz, JavonTae Wilson, Louis Smith III, Greg Wilson, Stevie Cole, Terri Jay, riKu Matsuda

**By phone:** Ana Bernal, Gustavo Velez, Victor Guerra, Kathryn Aguenza, Bill Sive, James Wen, Alexis Glenn, Gerald Garth, Sharon Chapman, Brian Navarro, Yamonte Cooper, Beatrice Najarro, Jeffrey King

**DMH Admin**  
Mirtala Parada Ward, Kelly Wilkerson, Desire DeShay and Connie Acosta Castaneda

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
<b>Welcome/ Introductions</b>	Attendee introductions.
<b>Membership Code of Conduct – Review and Sign</b>	The Code of Conduct was passed out and the subcommittee members participated in reading it to the group. The subcommittee was asked to sign and turn in to Kelly Wilkerson (signing is voluntary). Code of Conduct agreement only needs to be signed once a year.
<b>June Meeting Notes - Review</b>	June 6 <sup>th</sup> 2019 meeting minutes approved.
<b>Announcements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Renato Lira:</u></b> Volunteered his time helping earthquake victims, he was happy to announce that the Red Cross added a neutral gender bathroom. Renato also passed out flyers for The San Fernando Valley LGBT Community Center with the City of Los Angeles 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Back to School backpack distribution event titled “Helping Kids One Backpack at a Time”. Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 10:00 am – 2:30 pm @ 940 Van Nuys Blvd. Panorama City, Ca. 91402 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Help San Fernando Valley LGBT Community Center start school with the supplies they need this fall and all year long. Fill a backpack, donate supplies, or give gift cards – all will help our kids have a great school year.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b><u>Isaias Guzman:</u></b> Out Mental Health Training that will focus on Healthy Relationships and LBGTQ communities. There will be a second Training for Intimate Partner Violence in the LGBTQ communities. This training is being offered in the San Fernando Valley, it is a free training, hosted by the San Fernando LGBTQ Center and Child Family Guidance Center. Isaias emailed the flyer to Kelly to distribute by email to the subcommittee. There will also be a training at the Endowment on August 7<sup>th</sup> 2019 for the Allies &amp; LGBTQ Youth. Sponsored by the Latino Quality Alliance. His organization sent out RFP’s for 5 year \$5000 dollars for the first four years and last year will be \$4000 dollars totaling \$19,000.00-subcontract that focuses on tobacco prevention in the LGBTQ community. If your</li> </ul>

organization is interested in engaging LGBTQ communities to promote a tobacco free community, I would strongly encourage you to apply, they want LGBTQ serving organizations to get the money.

- **Mirtala Parada Ward:** DMH will be having two community forums this month. The first one is July 25<sup>th</sup>, at LA Tech College near downtown. It is an all day event sponsored by DMH. The Mental Health Commissioners will be highlighting the work of Service Area 4 Metro Los Angeles. That will be the first 3 ½ hours of the meeting. In the afternoon from 1:00pm – 2:00pm there will be a DMH Budget report that will be open to the community. Then from 2:00pm – 5:00pm will be the YourDMH quarterly event for stakeholders. Each of the stakeholder subcommittees will be reporting back to the Director in terms of what the subcommittee has been doing and each subcommittee will have the opportunity to talk about the specific needs that the group has and propose some possible solutions, so the Director could talk about resources. It will be an opportunity not only for Dr. Sherin, but also the Mental Health Commissioners (each Supervisor has one or two commissioners to be there) and listen to your needs as a community. It will be open for all the stakeholders. It will be from 10:00am – 5:00pm and breakfast and lunch will be served. Information will be emailed out by Kelly. Also on August 1<sup>st</sup> DMH will be having its second Stakeholders Meeting on Education. This is part of a Board Motion. The stakeholder group will meet again and provide a report on what is going on with that Board Motion. It will be from 9:30am – 11:30am at the Friendship Auditorium.
  - ❖ Mirtala suggest that you go to the DMH website and become a subscriber; you will get emails and updates on all these events.
- **Jeffrey King:** For the first announcement that you made, did you say Terri will be representing?
- **Mirtala Parada Ward:** Yes, as a Co-Chair. The meeting is open to everyone. The Co-Chairs are highly encouraged to attend.
- **Jeffrey King:** Thank you for repeating that. I got what you said. But the part I didn't get was each one of the Co-Chairs according to what you just said gets to present a concern or issue that we would hope will evolve from this particular body? Has that already been determined? And what process do we have in place to actually provide the voices of the individuals present or who are participating in this task force so that when she presents she is presenting on behalf of all of us?
- **Mirtala Parada Ward:** The reason why I wanted to make this announcement is so that this group can dedicate at least 5 minutes of their time, because Terri is just a representative of this group and what she presents is going to be what the entire group things is the need. Everyone on the phone and at the table can take a little time and discuss that.
- **Jeffry King:** Is it possible to have what Terri will be speaking on on our behalf in advance prior to her speaking?
- **Mirtala Parada Ward:** Kelly will be sending out an email with the two questions being asked so that everyone can have the opportunity to provide their feedback.
- **Terri Jay:** There were two major earthquakes last week. That brought concern to the LGBTQI2-S community in the city of Los Angeles. What are we doing as an entity to assist those living in the streets or even residential housing? How do we as collaborative partners in the LGBTQI2-S subcommittee, what are we doing to assist and support those who really need our help when it comes to disaster relief?
- **Renato Lira:** The Red Cross can come and give us a full training on disaster relief, and certify us in CPR. It will be free of charge.
- **Terri Jay:** The reason why I bring this up is, even if there is non-LGBTQI2-S individuals working for the Red Cross, how are they trained and certified to work directly with the LGBTQI2-S community when it comes to a disaster relief. Many are not provided the adequate sensitivity training so that is going to be a barrier to get access or help.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jeffrey King:</b> I would like to weigh in on the question laid out on the table. Is that question the scope for this particular body? To ruffle issues like that, I am not saying that it is not but I do think it is an important question to ask. 1. Is this an agenda item? 2. Is this the particular body to address this to? My recommendation is as a Co-Chair what you might do is find some resources of organizations and agencies that are funded by the Government and by the County to address emergency situations and extend it out to every member of this group, so we can share it with our agencies and we can put it on our websites, but not really sure if this body is one of them.</li> <li>• <b>Terri Jay:</b> That is why I brought it up, what do we do in these kind of situations, what are we doing to provide resources and information when this happens. This will be an ongoing discussion, an email will be sent out as for collecting resources on what we can do if there is a disaster.</li> <li>• <b>Kelly Wilkerson:</b> The Black LGBTQ Network project has been awarded and it was awarded to the AMAAD Institute. Next step we will schedule a vendor meeting and start talking about the deliverables.</li> <li>• <b>Jeffrey King:</b> We wrote that proposal and that is excellent news, I'm glad to hear it.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Conference and Survey Summary - Discussion</b></p> <p><b>Kelly Wilkerson</b></p>	<p>We received great feedback on the Surveys. The overall impression was very positive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback that some of the staff of the hotel were laughing at some of the Presenters and some guests that were there and making transphobic comments.</li> <li>• There was some concerns about the food not having Vegan or Vegetarian options and not being properly labeled.</li> <li>• There were some complaints about the Studio rooms, that there was a smell and that they were not clearly labeled.</li> <li>• Our contact there was able to assign a Gender Neutral bathroom for us but some of the staff there had some issues with that as well.</li> </ul> <p><b>Isaias Guzman:</b> Will the Department of Mental Health staff contact the Sheraton regarding these concerns?</p> <p><b>Kelly Wilkerson:</b> Yes absolutely! We are going to let our Primary contact from the Sheraton know our concerns, and then we are going to follow up to see what kind of resolution we can come to. Maybe offer them some training.</p> <p>The second survey was provided by the Training Division, we received great reviews and feedback about our workshops. Feedback will be shared with the Presenters to let them know how people perceived their workshops.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendees asked for CEU's. This was more like a community-based conference. Community members, not a licensed individuals, facilitated the majority of the workshops. The focus was more on educating the community.</li> <li>• The feedback about the two panels was very positive.</li> </ul> <p>The online survey identified which workshops people attended. Fewer people filled this survey out but still received good feedback. Eighty-one people did the survey out of 334. This survey identified which workshop people attended. When it came to choosing their workshops and then rating it, we did not know who rated which workshop; we knew how many people went to what workshop but not which one was being rated. Something to work on for the next year.</p> <p>The group showed concern regarding using subcommittee funds for conferences. They would like for the County to give them separate funding so they can have conferences and use their funds on Capacity Building Projects.</p> <p><b>Mirtala Parada Ward:</b> The API and Latino UsCC subcommittees have the same concerns. They also had to use their dollars that were assigned for Capacity Building and Community Education for a conference. The Latino subcommittee group opted out of having a conference because they did not want to sacrifice their dollars on a conference. I spoke with</p>

Mimi about it and she agrees. This will be an agenda item at the UsCC Leadership meeting. I highly suggest you go to YourDMH stakeholders meeting to express your concerns.

**Jeffrey King:** I would like to respond on a couple of things. I do not think trying to take something away from somebody else is the solution for advocating for yourself. I do not think that is what equality looks like. What I do think that is fair is to acknowledge all the work that everyone put into this and the exceptions that DMH staff did to ensure that there was proper representation of African American or black people. I am not sure who determines how this conference would be prioritized financially. If this conference was set to be at a certain dollar amount and that, the rest of that two hundred thousand should be allocated for specific projects. There is no report back of accountability from the previous conferences that relate to unspent dollars from either the conferences and or projects that are funded and if any of those dollars were given back to the County. I think that is a concern. It seems to me that there is a great opportunity for this group as a collective, a rainbow collective, to put together a letter that they agree to and forward that to people above Mimi to include the County Board of Supervisors. This is not a County mandated funded group. So this group can do more than show up individually and advocate. You can put together a document that this body wants this and needs this in order to thrive and accomplish its goals and mission. When we look at the provisions of dollars, is this conference really in alignment with this particular pot of funding that is allocated for. I am not saying that it is not but to me those are some very important questions that should be answered and perhaps Mirtala, you and the Co-Chair can really respond to that in an intelligent way and respectful way to this body because we are still kind of floating with who determines if this conference should be prioritized and to what dollar amount. That then leads to whatever is leftover for five projects to scramble over.

**Brian Navarro:** I'm concerned about inequity, really how certain things are funded or not funded. And just like Jeffrey, I don't want to take away from the African American conference, advocating for a separate pot of money so that all of the UsCC's can put on their conference, but really the intention of the UsCC was really to use that funding to fill in gaps and interventions for programs, which I still think we do a fine job at identifying certain programs to meet the needs of our communities, so I really like that idea of a letter, and really going directly to Dr. Sherin and Mimi, plus CC'ing the board about our intentions of needing more money for a conference and also still needing that money for interventions in our community.

**(Name not heard:)** I just have one comment. Gavin Newsom just signed a new budget, and there is a new line item on there for Queer Women's health, it is a little less than \$18 million dollars. It just got signed so there's money out there now for California, that might be utilized for this group.

**Mirtala Parada Ward:** Every year usually in the month of August, September, October, all the subcommittees are engaged in a process to come up with Project concepts for capacity building projects. As of as of last year, or in the old system, we used to have \$100,000 per group, but since last year, the budget got increased to \$200,000. Each subcommittee has autonomy to decide and vote on their projects. DMH Administration has no say, there was a voting process that people went through, and they voted on what projects they want to implement. Now, we never really talked about money, because the job of the subcommittee is to propose, come up with the projects, come up with the concepts, come up with ideas. After that, internally we work on our budget. Sometimes the budget will go over by \$10,000, sometimes it will get under \$10,000. And we will play with it. The department has never denied any projects thus far since I've been here over the past five years. Last year, this subcommittee voted on having a conference as one of their projects, but they also had three other projects. For this year, the funding doubled. And as soon as those projects all get fully awarded, all the vendors and all the people that were selected to implement those projects will come to this subcommittee, and you guys will meet them. And they will provide you with a summary of what how they intend to roll out the project. And the subcommittee is going to have an opportunity to provide feedback and their comments. That's how we've done it historically. That's how we did it last year. That's how we've done it, I think the last three or four years. We do report on all the projects with outcomes. And we are right now in the process of making all that information public and it is going to be posted on the DMH website. I'm thinking that in

	<p>the coming months all the projects and their outcomes for the subcommittees will be posted on the DMH website and we'll have an outcome report so that everybody knows what's going on and we can try to be as transparent as possible. One positive thing that came out this year is that I'm trying to let the groups know that you don't need to focus so much on the money. Forget about the money. Let DMH worry about the money, you focus on the needs of the community and come up with project ideas. And then my job as the administrator of all the UsCC groups is to go to Dr. Sherin and Mimi and say that this group came up with three great projects, and some of these projects are expensive, and we need more money, it's up to them to deny it. Another thing that I want to clarify is that all the capacity building projects go through a Purchase Order process. Under procurement law with LA County, those projects cannot go over the dollar amount of \$100,000, so this group technically could never have a project over \$100,000. Any project that is over \$100,000 goes through an RFP process. And our funding does not allow for the RFP process as it is reserved for programming. These projects are more about community education, capacity building, community awareness, training, educating the community to decrease the stigma. As we start talking about proposals, we're going to bring the guidelines and we're going to review them together so everybody is on the same page. And if people have questions about the process, let us know. And if more clarity is needed, let us know. For the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Jeffrey King:</b> That didn't really answer the question though. You provided some extremely important information, especially for some of the younger people who aren't aware of the process. So I appreciate hearing that level. You didn't really answer the question specifically regarding how do we prioritize the conference, and you can't talk about funding, without talking about funding. And so, if, in fact, the cost for the conference is \$60,000 and our total funding is \$200,000, that leaves a certain amount of money in the projects that people are applying for that don't go over \$50,000. How many projects can you fund if you can only do \$50,000 per project? After you spent \$70,000 on the conference, I am telling you that it's not a judgment, I think this group has an opportunity as young people to determine what's important to them, and they should do that and not be cut off by somebody who thinks these young people should determine what to do with that money.</p> <p><b>Mirtala Parada Ward:</b> The next 2,3 meetings are going to be exclusively on Capacity Building Projects. This subcommittee gets to engage in that process together and find a balance. If you have more questions feel free to call me.</p>
<p><b>UsCC By-Laws – Review</b></p> <p><b>Mirtala Parada Ward</b></p>	<p><b>Greg Wilson:</b> I'm glad that we're going to be discussing the voting process. According to the bylaws we should be starting new in June or July as it pertains to the voting process, because I know that it can be ongoing for years. I just want to make sure that it's in alignment with the funding cycle. As it pertains to the funding process I know they were speaking about that in the last meeting. Everyone should be eligible to start running as of July because all the new people that are at the table, they should have an opportunity to actually participate in the voting process moving forward so I'm glad we're going into the bylaws.</p> <p><b>Renato Lira:</b> My concern is that some entities have more staff than others. My question is, is one person from that entity going to vote or does each person get a vote? I don't think that's fair because some of the organizations they don't have a lot of staff, some are volunteers and cannot make it to all of the meetings. I hope we can fix that issue.</p> <p><b>(Name Not Heard):</b> One of my concerns is, since we're talking about voting and going into voting and everything it comes with, I believe if we had a consistent day, time, and location, this will help the attendance of individuals coming and being able to vote. With inconsistencies of days and times, some people are not going to be able to attend because of other obligations. Also the cost of travel, agency politics, etc. So one of the recommendations is that we have the meetings at a DMH office.</p> <p><b>Mirtala Parada Ward:</b> The By-Laws are in your packet and if you go on the DMH website to the YourDMH Underserved Cultural Communities Subcommittee Charter feedback and recommendations. I just want to show you that last month, the by-laws that were presented to your group, were presented to seven other groups, and each group had an opportunity to</p>

provide feedback, and I wanted to be transparent, that everybody is going through the same process together. Each group is very passionate about what they think is best for their group and what we did at the USC leadership meeting that took place two weeks ago, is I collected all the feedback from all the groups and presented it to the Leadership Committee. They spent approximately an hour to an hour and a half reviewing this feedback, and also reviewing the YourDMH document because they are mandated to align the charter with the requirements of YourDMH. That document is on the DMH website in English and in Spanish and hopefully soon it will be in the 13 threshold languages. I just wanted to tell you the process. So then we had a very good meeting, and they made some changes, they agreed with some of the suggestions and everything was done in a voting process. Everybody got to review the document together and provide feedback. These subcommittees are community driven not agency driven. The whole point of the UsCC groups is for the community. When you come to this meeting, you are representing your community, you are that person that represents your community. You are not here to represent your agency because that is a conflict of interest, especially if your agency is getting funding from DMH or wants to implement a capacity building project. Everybody that comes to this table comes with their own identity and with their own belief that they are here to represent the needs of the community that they identify with. The Leadership Committee agreed that stakeholders in the subcommittees should not come specifically to represent their agencies, but to represent the community that they identify with. The purpose of these subcommittees is to identify stakeholder priorities, not agency priorities, your own priorities, community priorities, which will advise DMH action planning towards the development and improvement of its services, creating partnerships to better engage underserved, marginalized, cultural and ethnic communities. In addition, the UsCC subcommittees provide DMH with community driven culturally specific capacity building project recommendations and or project concepts for implementation, to increase Mental Health access, awareness, promotion, and decrease stigma, with the ultimate goal of reducing cultural and ethnic disparities in access to care and service delivery. Does anyone have questions about that statement?

**Jeffrey King:** I have some a question on what you are doing right now, because there was some very specific questions that were posed that have not yet been addressed. Were you going to actually address those specific questions? Part of the by-laws that seems to be conflicting in terms of the way that it is being presented to this group is that each one of the groups has an opportunity to create what they feel will work best for them. That in the same breath, there is a body of people who meet, who will determine certain things about this group to include things like the voting process. There was a question asked, does everybody in that room get to start voting in alignment with the funding cycle, because that's what the county taskforces that currently exist around all of LA County do. There are people sitting at the table wondering if they get to vote starting June to July because that was the fiscal year start. You didn't answer that question, but you did somewhat answer the question around agency voting. You basically just said that if there are five people working for an agency who show up, as long as they show up as individuals, they get to vote. I don't think you addressed the other young man's question around his concern with four people who all work for the same agency being allowed to vote. Are you going to address that later, or how is that going to be addressed?

**Mirtala Parada Ward:** I wrote their questions down and I told them that we were going to read the By-Laws and as we go some of the questions will be answered and we'll address them. I want to read the entire document for the sake of time, and your staff can see I have written down their questions. Some of their questions may be answered when I read this document.

**Jeffrey King:** My apologies, I am not in the room.

**Mirtala Parada Ward:** DMH employees do not have any voting privileges and cannot be Co-Chairs. They can come to the meetings and provide feedback.

**Jeffrey King:** So does that apply for everyone sitting in that room today?

**Mirtala Parada Ward:** Yes, the By-Laws apply to everybody in the room.

**Jeffrey King:** In terms of being grandfathered in.

**Mirtala Parada Ward:** Not the DMH employees.

**Jeffrey King:** I read it and I know I can't vote. But you did vote in the past.

**Mirtala Parada Ward:** I have never voted.

**Jeffrey King:** The other part that I am talking about is, you're saying that everybody sitting in that room as of today and on this call as of today, will be grandfathered in as soon as it's implemented, is that correct?

**Mirtala Parada Ward:** For the people in the room, if they meet the attendance requirement they can vote and do not have to submit a membership application. New members who want to have voting privileges must submit an application that this subcommittee will be developing and must meet the attendance requirement which I will review.

**Jeffrey King:** But in fairness, you're not answering the question. I know many of us have, which is if funding starts in June in July for the county that's the County, no matter what, public health, typically what taskforces do is they begin a new year, what you're proposing by not starting a new year is unfair to the people still up in the room. You're saying that you're voting to start from two to three years ago. You're not saying that we start a new year with the funding cycle and you get to start anew. You're saying that we are going to have certain people in positions of power, as long as we want them to, and the rest of you will have to sit here and suffer because you're not following the rules, you're not doing it fairly, I'm just simply stating.

**Mirtala Parada Ward:** Okay, do you mind writing down your questions because the people in the room need to get out of here on time and we need to follow the agenda. So I'm going to finish this document and at the end we will entertain questions from the group, will that work for you?

**Jeffrey King:** Yes.

❖ Mirtala finishes reading the By-Laws to the subcommittee

**Mirtala Parada Ward:** In terms of the questions, I am going to go back to the questions that I wrote down, and if I didn't answer any of the questions I'm going to go back to that as promised. So did I answer the question about attendance, or are there more questions about that?

**Jeffrey King:** You did touch on some of it. Thank you for reading that document that we all have to read before, it was helpful to some people I'm sure, but it didn't really answer the question. So for example, I received an email from your office stating that the very meeting that we hosted at In The Meantime, I was counted as absent. I'm just using a very honest true example of inconsistencies in documentation of attendance.

**Mirtala Parada Ward:** I'm going to respond to your question.

**Jeffrey King:** Let me finish, it's not about me, take the attention off of Jeffrey, and focus it on the individuals who are sitting in that room. The question is at what point will participants be able to vote? I can wait for you to provide us with that information so we know this because you don't want to do it like everybody else. But starting in June or July, when will each individual in that room be eligible for voting privileges. Is that possible to provide for the group?

**Mirtala Parada Ward:** We will be providing a copy of the attendance roster at each meeting.

**Jeffrey King:** Did you hear my question? My question was very specific. Will you and the Co-Chair and Kelly, you guys are paid to do this. The co-chair is a volunteer, I'm asking if from an administrative perspective you can provide to this group between now and next meeting exactly when each participant is going to be able to participate in the final voting process. I don't know when you're starting from, I don't know when I'm eligible to vote. Can you get my point, I don't want to go further with that. Is that possible for you to provide that to this group to show each individual voting dates and if they're not eligible today to vote. When will they be able to vote. Is that possible?

**Mirtala Parada Ward:** I think that is very much possible. We can announce at every meeting who has voting privileges and who needs one or two more meetings to get voting privileges, if that's something that this subcommittee wants as part of the agenda, we could definitely add that.

**Kelly Wilkerson:** Thank you, Jeffrey about the email I sent you. So as an example, I have the copy of the sign in sheet of the meeting we had at In The Meantime on April 4<sup>th</sup>. I was there in person and I know without question that Jeffrey was there, but he had not signed his name on the sign in sheet. I don't know if maybe the sign in sheet didn't make it all the way around the table, or what may have happened. I reached out to ask if I could handwrite his name in the sign in sheet to reflect his attendance. We want to make sure that we record every person who is in the room and on the phone. So, I just want to reinforce the importance of signing in, or just making sure that you say your name out loud, very loud on the phone.

**Jeffrey King:** It's not about Jeffrey, one more time, I am just stating an example of how I hosted the meeting at In the Meantime for this group but I wasn't counted, I'm just saying that things can happen.

**Mirtala Parada Ward:** You were counted Jeffrey. Your name wasn't on the roster but you were counted, we know you were there.

**Jeffrey King:** That's okay, I'm talking about moving forward, I'm asking a very specific question, is it possible for you guys as administrators to provide to this body when everyone is eligible to vote? Is Greg Wilson eligible to vote? If Greg Wilson is not currently eligible to vote, at what time is he eligible to vote? If Jeffrey King is not eligible to vote? I just want everybody in the room to know when they are eligible to vote.

**Mirtala Parada Ward:** If you want to, at each meeting we could review that as of today, these are all the names individuals that have voting privileges.

**Kelly Wilkerson:** In each of the packets there is a current copy of the attendance roster for the last nine months. The names that are at the top that are highlighted, are the individuals who have attended at least 50% of the meetings over the last nine months are current voting members. Those names are: Richard Zaldivar, Greg Wilson Jeffrey King, Renato Lira, Gia Olaes, Josue Vega, Terri Jay, Hector Ramirez, TeJay McGrath, Johana Lazano, Rebecca Russell, Victor Guerra, Gustavo Velez, Kathryn Aguenza, Louis Smith III, and Isaias Guzman. Those are the folks who have attended 50% of the meetings over the last nine months. Individuals who are DMH employees, regardless of their attendance, are not currently allowed to vote.

**Mirtala Parada Ward:** So we intend to bring this roster to every meeting. That way, everybody knows who has voting privileges and if you want to add as an agenda item for those names to be read out loud, we can do that.

**Mirtala Parada Ward:** Did I answer all your questions? Does anyone else have other questions?

**Kelly Wilkerson:** The agenda items that we did not get to today are going to roll over to the next meeting.

**Renato Lira:** One entity only one person can vote? Or the entire entity?

**Desire DeShay:** If you are on a subcommittee and everybody is accounted for you should all be able to vote. It should be based on your regular attendance to the meeting.

**Kelly Wilkerson:** As long as you're attending the meetings and meeting the minimum requirement, you have voting privileges.

**Isaias Guzman:** I understand the intent for allowing everyone to vote but, for all intents and purposes, these UsCCs are only attended by people that are on payroll by their agencies, and that's the reality, whether they are part time or full time, the people who are showing up at these spaces are people who are getting paid to be here in some way or another through their jobs, that's the reality of what's happening. There's no way someone who has a full time job can participate, even if you say we can move the meeting to 6:30pm. People cannot show up because it depends on things like buses, traffic, families, etc. The reality is people's organizations and agencies will have an investment in mental health and will probably also need funding as well. And that's the reality. If you're going to allow everyone to vote, it's going to be one organization with a project proposal, so they can increase their funding. I don't have any issues with that but that's going to impact organizations that are smaller and no community members can actually apply for these project proposals to begin with. Can a committee member apply for one of the projects?

**Mirtala Parada Ward:** Yes. You have to become a vendor and you have to go through an ISD process to become a vendor.

	<p>I'll give you an example for the project that was just announced that was awarded to AMAAD. I know for a fact that there were three vendors that applied for that project. Internal Services Department (ISD) does all the solicitations. They tell us who was awarded a particular project. I'm going to be honest with you, they will usually go with the lowest bidder, we have no control over it. DCFS, Public Health, all the county departments use ISD as their buyers. The next meeting is going to be focused on capacity building project proposals.</p> <p><b><u>Kelly Wilkerson:</u></b> Please email me any proposals.</p> <p><b><u>Hector Ramirez:</u></b> Just to point out, something I really want to highlight in the by-laws, some of the requirements that you mentioned, I didn't hear anything about accessibility. Perhaps I missed it. The other point is in regards to the Code of Conduct being included in the by-laws.</p> <p><b><u>Mirtala Parada Ward:</u></b> The Code of Conduct was in the By-Laws.</p> <p><b><u>Hector Ramirez:</u></b> That just applies to all our UsCC's, so those are just my two comments on that I am kind of concerned about, you know, the equitability of the voting distribution, the absence of peers, and the absence of LA County DMH consumers. And as a consumer, that is a significant concern for me. I'm looking at how this this money gets created, it is a MHSA funding process and it's supposed to be peer lead. I represent my peers, but they need to be here.</p> <p><b><u>Terri Jay:</u></b> I know it's a little over 4 o'clock, so whatever is left on the agenda will be rolled over to the next meeting. Is there any agency that would like to sponsor our next meeting?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">❖ Everyone agreed to have the next meeting at a DMH facility.</p>
<b>Next Meeting</b>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 4:05pm</p> <p>August 8th, 2019 - 2:00PM – 4:00PM - 600 S. Commonwealth 2<sup>nd</sup> floor room 113 Los Angeles, 90020</p>