

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
AFRICAN/AFRICAN AMERICAN UsCC SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – October 31, 2019**

**Location: Long Beach MH Services – Adult Clinic
2600 Redondo Ave, Long Beach, CA 90806
1:00pm – 3:00pm**

Date: October 31, 2019

Present: Aris Boyd, Ursula Sims, Romalis Taylor, Donald Grant, Amy Williams, Jacqueline Glass, Adjoa Jones, Senait Admassu, Hewan Mengistu, Mcenly Miyme

DMH Staff: Anna Yaralyan, Mirtala Parada Ward, Keacha Stewart, Erica Malbourne

Participants via conference call: Belanie Brown, Nakea Fields, Bradley Ema

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
Introductions	Everyone introduced themselves.
Review and Approval of Minutes	Meeting Minutes approved with no corrections.
Capacity Building Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community Agents of Change Network Project Update: Dr. Donald Grant <p>Dr. Donald Grant Provided an update to the subcommittee members about the Community Agents of Change Network Project.</p> <p>The purpose of the Community Agents of Change Network Project is to spread mental health awareness, education, and community resources to African-American community members who reside in Service Area (6) and Service Area (8) of Los Angeles County. This project aims to educate and empower the African-American community about the importance of mental health care. It will build awareness and community connections by training community members, to become Community Agents of Change Educators (CACE).</p>
Community Agents of Dr. Donald Grant	<p>This project involves hiring a trainer to implement the community agents of change network project. It will involve two components. The first component will include the facilitation of community stakeholder focus groups. These groups will help with the development of a culturally responsive outreach and engagement curriculum; the recruitment of community members and volunteers; and the training of community members who reside in Service Area 6 (South Los Angeles) and Service Area 8 (South Bay). The second component of this project is for the community agents of change educators to conduct grassroots level community mental health presentations and/or 1 to 1 outreach and engagement supportive activities.</p>
Community Agents of Dr. Donald Grant	<p>The following deliverables were completed for this project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Focus groups

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
AFRICAN/AFRICAN AMERICAN UsCC SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – October 31, 2019**

**Location: Long Beach MH Services – Adult Clinic
2600 Redondo Ave, Long Beach, CA 90806
1:00pm – 3:00pm**

- Curriculum development
- Development of the pre-post survey for the community mental health presentations

Currently Dr. Donald Grant is working on Recruitment and Training parts of the project.

**Whole Body Approach
to Preschool Wellness**

• Whole Body Approach to Preschool Wellness – Amy Williams

Project Description:

Child360, an early childhood education quality improvement specialist in Los Angeles County and serving the region, state, and select national contracts, will partner with the Pinwheel Project from Providence Saint John’s Child and Family Development Center, a group of early childhood mental health experts who develop preschool wellness consultation. This partnership will transform the solutions scope of the cradle to career pipeline, in servicing one of LA’s most challenged socio-economic contingents of preschool aged children in South Central Los Angeles.

This project selects community specialists to bring prevention and early intervention to preschoolers through specially trained mental wellness professionals. Their quality improvement services focus on helping parents and teachers support children more effectively. An interdisciplinary team involving mental and physical wellness, nutrition, and occupational therapy will be utilized for class-wide, small-group, and individualized interventions.

**Capacity Building
Projects**

Project Purpose:

Child360 exists to provide all children a fair chance to thrive and become happy, contributing members of society. In the project, Adverse Childhood Experiences, (ACEs) affects are recognized for school readiness and health outcomes later in life. These outcomes can negatively affect the desired “cradle to career pipeline.” Therefore, for optimum cognitive functioning of a child, a more holistic approach is desired to positively influence the child’s mental and physical wellness.

Project Objectives

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
AFRICAN/AFRICAN AMERICAN UsCC SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – October 31, 2019**

**Location: Long Beach MH Services – Adult Clinic
2600 Redondo Ave, Long Beach, CA 90806**

1:00pm – 3:00pm

**Whole Body Approach
to Preschool Wellness**

1. The project will increase public awareness about holistic treatment approaches for preschool children.
2. Help increase access to preschool wellness services universally.
3. Contribute to a more sustainable, ecological, interdisciplinary consultative program, to address the needs of developing children and their families.

Project Justification

The project will increase access to wellness service providers. There will also be improved communication and integration between systems of care and community partners. Also, there will be an increased parent teacher understandings about holistic wellness.

**Empowering the Black
African American
Infant Mortality –
Adjoa Jones**

Adjoa Jones – African American/Black Infant Maternal Mortality

Adjoa Jones gave a presentation on Black Infant Mortality. She specifically provided the following information:

Maternal Mortality is the death of a woman while pregnant, during labor and delivery or within one year of the end of her pregnancy from a pregnancy complication.

In 1850, the US began keeping records of infant mortality by race. That year it was reported that the black infant mortality rates were 340 per 1000, while the white rates of infant mortality were 217 per 1000. The black – white – divide and infant mortality has been a source of both concern and debate for over a century.

The major cause of infant death among black babies in LA County is being born prematurely parentheses prior to 37 weeks gestation parentheses, which can also lead to the following:

- Risks for early death in life
- Medical complications
- Disability and chronic diseases later in life

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
AFRICAN/AFRICAN AMERICAN UsCC SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – October 31, 2019
Location: Long Beach MH Services – Adult Clinic
2600 Redondo Ave, Long Beach, CA 90806
1:00pm – 3:00pm**

<p>Empowering the Black African American Infant Mortality – Adjoa Jones</p>	<p>To address the issue of African American Infant Mortality, three LA County agencies have been collaborating together. These Los Angeles County agencies include the Department of Health Services, Department of Mental Health, and the Department of Public Health. Their mission is to build an integrated health system that delivers seamless, coordinated services to the most marginalized LA County residents. Their goal is to increase coordination and appropriate access to care for Medi-Cal beneficiaries.</p> <p>These three agencies will also work together to improve data collection, case management services, and record sharing systems. With all agencies working together, there will be a system designed to improve access and quality of care for the Medi-Cal receiving population.</p>
<p>Future Meeting Time & Dates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12/5/19 2pm – 4pm • Location: 4359 Lennox Blvd. Lennox Ca, 90304

Respectfully Submitted:

Anna Yaralyan, Psy.D. Clinical Psychologist
Office of the Deputy Director of Strategic Communications
AAA Underserved Cultural Communities Liaison

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
AFRICAN/AFRICAN AMERICAN UsCC SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – October 31, 2019
Location: Long Beach MH Services – Adult Clinic
2600 Redondo Ave, Long Beach, CA 90806
1:00pm – 3:00pm**