

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
AFRICAN/AFRICAN AMERICAN UsCC SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – August 15, 2019
Location: Antelope Valley Transit Authority
42210 6th Street West, Lancaster Ca 93534
12:30pm - 2:30pm**

Date: August 15, 2019

Present: Rosalba Cafn, Kandee Lewis, Jennifer Smith, Romalis Taylor, Damisha Jones, Barbara Jones, Jamila Clane, Terrie McClure, Makesha Jones-Chambers

DMH Staff: Anna Yaralyan, Mirtala Parada Ward, Desiree DeShay

Participants via conference call: Imani Bradley, Nakeya Fields, Wendy Cabil, Carli Lee

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions	Action Item	Person(s) Responsible
Introduction	Everyone introduced themselves.		
Review and Approval of Minutes	Meeting Minutes approved.		
Mental Health Needs of the African American Population in AV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In the Antelope Valley (AV) 160,000 people are facing housing issues. ● There is a lack of employment training; there is no assistance with seeking and obtaining training. ● The homeless population often travel from LA to the AV on the metro link train. They are often provided a one way ticket. Antelope Valley has turned into a dumping ground, as most of the homeless are sent there. ● Homeless people face different forms of traumas. For example, a black male, 41 years old, diagnosed with schizophrenia was falsely accused with a criminal activity and beaten by police officers. ● The homeless population has been decriminalized, they need to be treated with respect. 		

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<p style="text-align: center;">Mental Health Needs of the African American Population in AV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The AAA community in Antelope Valley is dealing with a double stigma, being black and mentally ill. ● Carli Lee reported that 80% of the AAA community has PTSD and is also being criminalized. ● The mental health concerns of the AV community need to be addressed and we need to support them. ● There is a lack of stability in regards to housing for the homeless. ● There are no real services in Antelope Valley for the homeless and other low income community members. ● The following questions were asked by the AAA subcommittee members. What is the department planning? What is on the table for the AAA community? How can they receive the services they need? ● Mirtala Parada Ward suggested for Carli Lee to join the next AAA subcommittee meeting via conference line, as the information she provided at this meeting was informative, important and useful. ● Mirtala Parada Ward encouraged the AAA subcommittee members to come up with ideas and suggestions for mental health Capacity Building Project Proposals for the AAA community. ● It was suggested to have a Capacity Building Project which includes mental health seminars to educate the law enforcement and other agencies to address individual mental health needs and homeless issues in Antelope Valley. ● Members shared that the AV clients are travelling to Alta Dena to receive services because they cannot find a provider who accepts medical or their insurance. ● Romalis Taylor suggested inviting the community members to join the AAA subcommittee. ● Romalis Taylor informed the group to please try and attend the next meeting, they will discuss 	
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<p>Mental Health Needs of the African American Population in AV</p>	<p>homelessness throughout LA County.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Romalis Taylor shared that AAA community members need outreach and engagement projects using community ambassadors to spread the word and provide resources and education to the community. ● Subcommittee members also suggested to create youth ambassadors in AV and provide training surrounding MH resources and services. These ambassadors can be the young voices of the community. ● Wendy Cabil shared some current needs of the AV community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SAAC reminder emails are not the same as the AAA. ● Emails were sent out 2 months prior to all the SAACs about the first AAA meeting in the AV. ● SAAC received the flyer, but did not blast the meeting information in advance. ● It is important to sent our flyers for the UsCC subcommittee meetings via email on timely manner. ● Mirtala shared that a Skype meeting is possible with at least 10 people in attendance. ● Romalis Taylor suggested getting sign-up sheets with their contact information. ● Wendy Cabil shared the following concerns for AAA community transportation needs relating to receiving mental health services and attending mental health community events, meetings and seminars: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation is limited; drivers are not happy with management <input type="checkbox"/> When its very hot in Antelope Valley, passengers cannot open the bus windows while riding in buses. They are still using buses without air-conditioning in hot temperature. 		
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Bus passes are limited within certain regions and zones.<input type="checkbox"/> There are boundaries within the demographics and routes of the buses. <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Mirtala stated that she will connect with LACDMHs Amber to see if the County Van can transport the consumers to the next meeting.
● A consumer reported the following information:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> There is a Consumer Council who should be invited to future mental health meetings at the main DMH Clinic in Antelope Valley. Consumers can talk about the needs of the community from their perspective.<input type="checkbox"/> She suggested to create a resource flyer which lists all of the resources for the community adults/homeless and mentally ill.<input type="checkbox"/> The next Consumer Meeting will be on the 4th Thursday of the next month at the main at clinic from 12pm to 1pm. If a van is available, consumers could have a ride to the clinic to attend the meeting.
● Wendy and Carli are invited to share capacity building project ideas for the AAA community at the next AAA subcommittee meeting.
● Mirtala stated that anyone with ideas for Capacity Building Projects can present a proposal for a Capacity Building Project. AAA subcommittee members can share this information with their family and friends who may have ideas on how to engage with the community. | | |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Kandee Lewis was awarded the AAA Youth Community Ambassador Project. The following information was discussed about this project:<ul style="list-style-type: none">□ The purpose of this project is to educate and empower the AAA youth about the importance of MH care in an effort to build awareness and community connections.□ The project will increase MH awareness through arts, music, drama, dance, poetry, workshops, etc.□ Include other activities that are culturally sensitive to SA1, targeting ages 12 to 21.□ Trainer will work on hiring and implementing the AAA Youth Ambassador Community Project with 2 components.□ There will be a facilitation of stakeholder community focus groups that will help with the development of culturally responsive outreach and engagement curriculum targeting AAA youth ages 12 and older.□ Black AA youth ages 18-25 will be trained on how to conduct, outreach and engage with the community as the community ambassadors. | | |
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> AA presenters will conduct grassroots level community mental health presentations with educational workshops which include dance, art, music, drama and poetry and other cultural relative activities. <input type="checkbox"/> “Positive Results” organizations overall objective is to engage and empower the AA youth, so they can combat negative stereotypes and increase their self-esteem in an effort to build community resilience. <input type="checkbox"/> The project also aims to increase accessibility to MH services and to provide support and increase MH awareness. <input type="checkbox"/> There will be a specific emphasis to focus on the recently released AA youth from juvenile hall and detention camps and those who are a part of the welfare system. ● Kande provided a list of tasks to be completed for the youth project as follow:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outreach• Focus Groups• Transportation• Stipend		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Curriculum• Train 18-25 yr. olds• Survey/Workshop• 20 Workshops in AV <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Kande asked the members to please share this information with any youth ages of between the ages of 18 to 25 to recruit them to become Ambassadors for the community.		
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Future Meeting Time & Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 10/31/2019, 1pm – 3pm <p>Location: 2600 Redondo Ave. Long Beach, CA 90806.</p>		
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Respectfully Submitted:

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