

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
Office of the Deputy Director of Strategic Communications**

American Indian / Alaska Native (AI/AN) Subcommittee Minutes

September 4, 2019
2:00PM – 4:00PM

Present: Sylvia Gonzales Youngblood, Arnold Youngblood, Toni Craig-Thomas, Marissa Nuncio, Anu Yadav, Monique Smith, Nikki Crow, Farrah Ferris, Charlotte Lujan, Marcos Aguilar

By Phone:
DMH Sunnie Whipple, Hector Ramirez, Gabriel Pimentel, Andrea Garcia and Avril Cordova

Admin
Mirtala Parada Ward, Kelly Wilkerson, Desiree DeShay and Connie Acosta Castaneda

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
Welcome, Prayer & Introductions	Attendee introductions
Announcements – Co-Chairs Subcommittee Members	<p><u>Sylvia Youngblood:</u> Attended a meeting at the Indigenous School in San Marino. They are looking at getting a space at the Southwest Museum. They are doing a Visionary Project; if you are interested in being on the Advisory group please let Sylvia know.</p> <p><u>Hector Ramirez:</u> Save The Date: 36th Annual Pow Wow. November 30, 2019 from 11:00AM – 9:00PM at the campus at Cal State Northridge. Put together by the American Indian Student Association.</p> <p><u>Andrea Garcia:</u> Save The Date: Los Angeles County Native American Commission is hosting a Community forum on Homelessness October 1, 2019 from 4:00PM – 5:30pm at UAll Community Center.</p> <p><u>Avril Cordova:</u> 18th Annual American Indian Day Picnic at Griffith Park, Crystal Springs picnic area on September 7, 2019 from 10:00AM – 4:00PM. Also October 26, 2019 American Indian Community Council 13th Annual Pow Wow. Co-Hosting is title 6 LA Indian Education Components held in Highland Park at Franklin High School.</p> <p><u>Marcos Aguilar:</u> Autry Museum of Western Heritage requested for our advice on the use of the Southwest museum and the Adobe that is associated with that property in Highland Park. It is a very long and political issue. We consulted with Elders about submitting a proposal to request some space for our school and the future for our campus. Also to broaden the idea about what that space has meant in the Los Angeles area and what it will mean in the future. The artifacts that have been housed in that building for almost a hundred years are not gathered in a respectful, cultural or spiritual way. We would like to invite our indigenous brothers and sisters to participate, our community members, community leaders to help us work this out. The flyer will be sent out to the group.</p> <p><u>Kelly Wilkerson:</u> The Training Recommendations for WET Division and the Cultural Adaptations for UsCC Charter will be ongoing discussions. You can email Kelly with any ideas or adaptations and this will be a agenda item regularly.</p>

<p>8/7/19 Meeting Notes - Review</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8/7 Meeting notes were approved with no corrections by Hector Ramirez and second by Monique Smith. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Please make sure to sign in so you can be counted for voting privileges. In addition, if you are on the phone please make sure to let us know so we can count you in.
<p>UsCC Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Review / Discussion By-Laws</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All 7 UsCC subcommittees provided feedback to the By-Laws and they were finalized by the UsCC Leadership committee. Each subcommittee has the autonomy of adding a clause to the By-Laws that are culturally specific for each subcommittee. As long as it does not interfere or remove from the set By-Laws that were approved by the body. ❖ <u>Garment Worker Center - Marissa Nuncio:</u> The Garment Worker Center is a local 18-year-old organization that is located in the Fashion District in Downtown Los Angeles. They are an organizational space for garment workers. The workforce is made up of about 45,000 people, primarily women, and 80% are from Mexico and Central America. In the work and outreach of the Garment Worker Center, they have a Legal Clinic and a Women’s Circle. The demographics have changed and there is a lot of trauma in the sweatshops. They would like to deepen the awareness of services that are available to the members. We are a very hands on organization that help in every aspect and make good solid connections. We have a real need for language access to have interpretation in our circle, to be able to help them access Mental Health Services. We know this is an untouched sector and we can really help. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Mirtala Parada Ward:</u> The people that you are serving, do they have Mental Health conditions like PTSD, or a history of trauma, and is there a need for Mental Health Services, and have you identified that need? ○ <u>Marissa Nuncio:</u> From hearing from our members, these are people that are working in sweatshops in horrific conditions with endless amounts of verbal abuse, physical abuse at times and a lot of sexual harassment for women. We run a Legal Clinic to help fight for hourly fare wages to help with their claims and help fight for their rights. Then we move to larger public campaigns against large companies. ○ <u>Kelly Wilkerson:</u> Will send the Capacity Building Project Guidelines, and some examples of past projects, to use as reference to what they might want to propose. Also the website information to read up on past projects. ○ <u>Mirtala Parada Ward:</u> Suggest that we put the Garment Worker Center on the agenda for the Latino subcommittee. <li style="text-align: center;"><u>FY 19-20 Capacity Building Projects – Proposals</u> • <u>Deborah Villanueva – Proposal:</u> ❖ <u>Giving Spirits Project – GSP / Community Ambassadors:</u> To bring together a committee of Native Elders as community ambassadors to mediate and provide support to incarcerated Native Youth in an urban setting within Southern California. <u>Goals for this project are:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase connections to Native traditions, rituals, and cultural awareness. 2. Increase Native Pride, self-esteem, a sense of belonging, and community building.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Increase the access and utilization of post-incarceration mental health services, education and vocational opportunities, housing, medical, and other services available to them. 4. Increase awareness of the challenges affecting Native Youth and their communities, as to decrease crime, substance use, suicide, homelessness and recidivism. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mirtala Parada Ward: Do you have any data in terms of how many Native youth are currently in our probation system in Los Angeles County? ○ Deborah Villanueva: Data changes constantly. It is high, Native American youth over White youth are highly incarcerated. In the Long Beach Detention Center there are 65% - 70% incarcerated Native youth compared to White or Hispanic youth. ○ Sylvia Youngblood: I work on the Justice Committee for Learning Disabilities Association of America. Data that we have collected, Native Americans are the highest group that is incarcerated across the nation. Higher than the African American population and the Hispanic population. That information is not communicated because we are not the targeted population. To have something to address that, that would be wonderful. Native Americans are marked as something else and then they fall through the cracks. ○ Farrah Ferris: If you could email Kelly with specific interventions and what it is going to look like, that would be helpful. ○ Sunnie Whipple: After the Capacity Building Project is over; will she be able to sustain everything you want to do? It takes a lot of money to get to sweat lodges and different things where they need to be. ○ Deborah Villanueva: I personally do not have the funding. This is why we are presenting this Proposal to hopefully obtain the funding to be able to pay the traditional healers that will be presenting to the Native Elders. The goal is really to support the Native Youth that are incarcerated. To raise their self-esteem, have Native Pride, and be more involved with their Native Traditions and Spiritual practices. ○ Hector Ramirez: One thing I'd like to propose is that you add an element that in addition to the healing practices, help individuals address some of the trauma that they sustain while being in the detention facility or to deal with some of the trauma that lead them to these kinds of facilities. We also have a significant number of young women and Two Spirit individuals in these facilities that would benefit from this program.
<p>Conference Planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Update regarding workshops</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ We have our top 5, there was a tie for the final workshop. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Daniel Dickerson and Melanie Cain 2. Monique Castro 3. Monique Smith and Rita Ledesma 4. Sunnie Whipple and Bernice Mascher 5. Farrah Ferris ○ <u>There will be a vote for the final workshop</u> ○ <u>Sylvia Youngblood:</u> Would like a workshop done around education, general/special education. Native/Reservation Schools vs. Public Schools. What are the pros and cons, how do they access mental health services, how are parents educated/trained to become advocates for their children being Urban Native American youth, and how does it ultimately affect their Mental Health and Wellbeing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>School Anahua Calmecac</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Marcos Aguilar:</u> One of our purposes for our school is to indigenize education from the perspective of our language, our culture and include language in our curriculum as part of our daily practice. Sounds simple but it's difficult even in our Pueblos in Mexico. We are actively working on both sides of the border to expand and increase our language education as part of the entire approach to wellness and education needed for children. • <u>Discuss/Vote on Plenary Speakers</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There will be one Plenary Speaker and that will be in the AM ○ Monique Castro suggested Julia Bogany, she will also be doing our blessings. ○ Daniel Dickerson suggested Art Martinez ○ Danielle Glenn-Rivera suggested Judge Claudette White, Lawrence Swalley, Sarah Eagle Heart and Casey Camp Horinek ○ Sunnie Whipple suggested Raymond Dunton ○ Monique Smith suggested Judge Claudette White (along with Judge Abby if possible) – Farrah and Monique to follow up with them <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There will be a Survey Monkey vote sent out for the Plenary Speaker • <u>Discuss Emcee</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kelly suggested Mark Parra, he is a DMH employee. She reached out to Jim Ruel but the cost was too high. If we use Mark, there will be no charge. ○ If a committee member wants to be an Emcee and wants to volunteer their time, they are more than welcome to submit their name. ○ Hector Ramirez was also suggested. Deadline to vote will be September 15, 2019 • <u>***Please distribute Share Save the Date Flyer***</u>
Next Meeting	October 2, 2019 2:00PM – 4:00PM – UAlI 1125 W. 6th St. Los Angeles, 90017