

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

**American Indian / Alaska Native (AI/AN) SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES**

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019  
2:00PM – 4:00PM

**Present:** Bernice Masher, Sunnie Whipple, Marissa Abril, Minerva Flores, Belinda Smith, George Funmaker, Keith Vielle, Iva Maes, Terry Garcia, Melanie Cain, Andrea Garcia, Stephanie Mushrush, Avril Cordova, Dan Dickerson, Rosalisa Abito, Johnathon Talamantes, Susan Pelletier, Belinda Najera, Danielle Kayne-O’Gilvie, Javier Serna  
**Phone:** Toni Craigs-Thomas, Monique Smith, Monique Castro, Farrah Ferris, Hector Ramirez, Carrie Johnson  
**DMH**  
**Admin:** Mirtala Parada Ward, Kelly Wilkerson, Desiree DeShay

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
<b>Welcome, Prayer &amp; Introductions</b>	Attendee introductions
<b>Announcements</b>	N/A
<b>Review of minutes</b>	April 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2019 meeting minutes approved
<b>UsCC Business</b>	<p><u>RAND Report/Summary</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared first draft of summary that was provided by RAND. Kelly to email out full summary once it is received from RAND.</li> <li>• Bernice Mascher: If others in the community want to share their thoughts, where should they send them? <b>They can email everything to Mirtala Parada Ward or Mimi McKay and they will send it to RAND directly. Send all feedback by Friday, 5/10.</b></li> <li>• Hector Ramirez: Recommendation to include an increase in the type of trauma-informed services and trainings related to this topic in the section regarding “Services Needing Expansion.” Expand service opportunities in the various parts of the County.</li> <li>• Farrah Ferris: Extending services regarding housing (what it looks like for children and families and TAY versus just single adults), substance abuse, dual diagnosis, inpatient/outpatient, medication/psychiatric services, and trauma-informed care.</li> <li>• Sunnie Whipple: Our subcommittee provided a lot of feedback, more than other stakeholder groups. After they make their report, does it come back here to be vetted by our group? <b>We will ask that question from RAND. Once they have all the feedback, they will draft a full summary and share that with Dr. Sherin to become part of the strategic plan for the Department. More than likely they will look at themes throughout all of the various subcommittees.</b> If we are ethnic specific in this group, and the SAACs are more based on geography, my concern is that may limit us as a group. <b>We will definitely ask your questions to RAND.</b></li> </ul>

- Hector Ramirez: Recommendation to expand services to TAY population, particularly in our schools.
- Kelly to email out any additional feedback received to the subcommittee, unless individuals ask that it remain anonymous.

#### FY 18-19 Capacity Building Projects – Update

- Kelly updated the subcommittee regarding the four capacity building projects for Fiscal Year 18-19:
  - Educational PSAs – project was awarded to Southern California Indian Center
  - Community Symposiums – has been awarded but the PO has not yet been issued, we should be able to announce the Vendor next week
  - Video Showcase – has been awarded but the PO has not yet been issued, we should be able to announce the Vendor next week (During meeting, Kelly mistakenly reported out that this project had been awarded to SCIC, but it was the Educational PSAs project that had been awarded to them)
  - Website – has not yet been sent out for solicitation, we are following up regularly regarding this
- Sunnie Whipple: For the Video Showcase, will AICC write the script? **No, the subcommittee will work on the script together.**
- Keith Vielle: For the Video Showcase, will all the filming take place at AICC? **Not all of it, they will probably also use an off-site location for some of it but for the video showcasing AICC, the majority of it will be filmed at AICC. Part of the video is showing people how they will navigate receiving services at AICC.**
- Sunnie Whipple: We were awarded the money in 2018 and now it is 2019, so how is that money laid out? **For these four projects, the money has already been set aside in the budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019, so it will not impact or be impacted by the new budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. For the upcoming year, our plan is to have the projects voted/decided on August and have the SOWs completed by September/October. For the next UsCC meeting in June, we will spend half the meeting focused on conference planning and the other half focused on FY 19-20 Capacity Building Projects.**

#### Ad Hoc Letter re: Promoters Program

- Farrah Ferris shared regarding the Ad Hoc meeting that took place last week including the letter that was created (shared with subcommittee).
- Keith Vielle: Shared concerns regarding the final version of the letter based on what he learned about the background of how this all took place. Clarified that he was not with the UsCC two years ago when Ana Suarez first attended the subcommittee meeting to discuss the Promoters Program.
- Bernice Mascher: Shared concerns regarding this being a pattern with DMH where things will be discussed with the subcommittee and then several years will pass by without any follow up.
- Mirtala Parada Ward: Provided overview on the history of Promoters Program, approximately three years ago prior to Dr. Sherin coming on board, the Department was interested in expanding the Latino Promotores Program to include other underserved communities. After some time, it was sent to the PEI District Chief but then Dr. Sherin came to the Department and the reorganization of the Department began which put things on hold. Dr. Sherin eventually became aware of the Promoters Program and was

interested in expanding it and creating a unit to work on it. At that time it came back to Ana Suarez, which was towards the end of 2018.

- Sunnie Whipple: Shared that while he was sitting at the SLT table he asked what happened with the Promoters Program and only heard back, “I don’t know.” Was told by Richard from Service Area 7 that there were no funds available for Promoters. Expressed concern with the lack of respect in how it was handled and how they should have come back to the subcommittee to explain what was happening and what were the delays. There was a lack of communication.
- Keith Vielle: Cannot agree with something that was two years ago prior to his involvement. Shared that there are five Native Americans that have been working on the curriculum for the Promoters Program, which he feels is helpful.
- Hector Ramirez: Recalled conversations around this from years ago regarding community defined practices, was surprised by the lack of communication that took place. The County’s Executive Office is responsible for things like this not to happen, must involve community involvement. Recommends subcommittee use their collective knowledge to approach both the Director and the CEO’s office and, if necessary, the Board of Supervisors.
- Keith Vielle: Recommends that better guidelines be created to prevent these types of situations from occurring in the future.
- Sunnie Whipple: Recommended that everyone should have the opportunity to make a bid or collaborate together on this project. Feels the curriculum and the program need to be put out in such a way as to align with the people outside who you are trying to reach.
- Melanie Cain: The curriculum was shared amongst those who worked on it. The curriculum cannot be shared with the community if this project is going to be sent out to bid because it would disqualify them immediately.
- Bernice Mascher: The opposite impression was given at the last UsCC meeting – the impression from that meeting was that no one could view the curriculum because it went to a directly operated clinic.
- Mirtala Parada Ward: Shared regarding Procurement law – if this project is done directly operated, it will not go out to bid. If it goes out to bid, then DMH under Procurement law is prohibited from sharing the curriculum, SOW, or anything related to this because it would automatically disqualify an agency from bidding if they had prior knowledge of those documents because it must be an unbiased equitable process for all. This would include line staff viewing these documents. The Department’s Executive Management made the decision to roll the program out sooner by having the directly operated clinic do the project.
- Andrea Garcia: If the curriculum is operated by AICC, then can we share the curriculum to the group? **Once it’s implemented by a directly operated program, it can only be shared with the curriculum committee because if the project is successful and the Department decides to also have contracted agencies do it, they would more than likely task those contracted agencies with creating their own curriculum. This is really more a question for County Counsel though.**
- Stephanie Mushrush: If someone from a contracted agency had viewed the curriculum, then they would not be eligible for the RFP? **This question came up before and we recommended to Ana Suarez that she consult with County Counsel. We can follow up with her.**
- Farrah Ferris: Shared that when initially presented to UAll, it was not presented that it was the development of a curriculum, but instead that community members were giving feedback. If it is

	<p>eventually sent out for RFP, UAll will not be bidding on this project. The Ad Hoc letter is focused on the process and the lack of transparency and communication that occurred and the community's concerns regarding that, as well as there being other agencies who would be interested in bidding on the Promoters Project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Melanie Cain: If AICC does get the project, it will be brought back to the community and a plan for implementation will be developed in collaboration.</li> <li>• Resolution: Move forward with sending the letter.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Conference Planning</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conference will take place 11/12/19 at the California Endowment</li> <li>• Kelly introduced Desiree DeShay, Training Coordinator, who will be the lead for the conference. Also shared past Conference Programs.</li> </ul> <p><u>Themes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Themes Ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Intergenerational trauma</li> <li>○ ICWA</li> <li>○ Moral injury; that resonates with healing</li> <li>○ PTSD and depression</li> <li>○ Specialized foster care</li> <li>○ Veterans, special populations</li> <li>○ Suicide</li> <li>○ Spirituality</li> <li>○ Historical reframing – positive/power building and community building</li> <li>○ Historical love – ancestors that got us here – push against and work within systems</li> <li>○ Highlight culture: Food, hunting, traditional healing</li> <li>○ Highlight Native women, uplifting indigenous women</li> <li>○ Consider using “Decolonization” in the title</li> <li>○ Sexual assault issues with women/ looking at children/ elders</li> <li>○ Workshops/Panel to discuss traditional healing/ what can people do now/ community members experiences.</li> <li>○ Ceremony, resiliency, push us forward</li> <li>○ Healing and interactive activities</li> <li>○ Women wear and use the Color RED</li> <li>○ Look at diabetes and alcoholism and concerns</li> <li>○ Keith offered to set up a teepee</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p>	<p>6/5/19, 2-4pm, Location: AICC</p>