

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS**

**LGBTQI2-S UsCC Subcommittee**

**MINUTES**

September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

550 S. Vermont

**Present:** Terri Jay, Gregory Wilson, Hector Ramirez, Renato Lira, Richard Zaldivar, JavonTae Wilson, Gustavo Velez, Sarah Brock Chavez, Jeffrey Fuentes, David Haynik, Alexis Glenn, Brian Scheigh and Louis Smith III

**By phone:** Josue Vega, Ana Bernal, Jeffrey King, Yamante Cooper, David Gadino, Johana Lozano, Phil Sive, and Claire Kobren

**DMH Admin** Kelly Wilkerson, Mirtala Parada Ward, and Keacha Stewart

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 distributed to the subcommittee and the members participated in reading it to the group. The subcommittee should sign and turn in to Kelly Wilkerson, signing is voluntary. Code of Conduct agreement only needs to be signed once a year.
<b>August Meeting Notes – Review</b>	<p>August Meeting minutes were approved, with one correction. Terri Jay (Co-Chair) suggested adding the name to the minutes when a person asks or answers a question.</p> <p>Terri Jay would like more information about adding the “A” to the LGBTQI2-S. Kelly Wilkerson spoke with Jeanie You regarding having someone from the Asexual community come to the subcommittee. Will follow up ASAP.</p>
<b>Co-Chair Nominees Intros</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Greg Wilson</b> provided an overview of why he is interested in becoming a Co-Chair for the LGBTQI2-S Subcommittee.</li> <li>• <b>Questions for Greg Wilson:</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Hector Ramirez</b> asked what would Greg Wilson will do to safeguard the members of the public like the consumers? The meetings have been very damaging in past and violent towards consumers.</p> <p><b>Greg Wilson</b> replied that he has been attacked and he will speak up, he will make sure people are supported, appreciated and valued. Greg Wilson stated he will always speak up and stand up for anyone that is not speaking up for themselves. Any consumer that is present and comes to the table, he will make sure that they are supported, valued, and appreciated.</p>

**Richard Zaldivar** stated that we will not tolerate any kind of bigotry or discrimination, or any kind of hatred or any attacks in this room against anyone, because the role of the Co-Chair is very sacred, you set the role, you set the bar, and you expect everyone to follow. As Co-Chair, will you be able to adhere and support that high level of integrity that it takes?

**Yamonte Cooper** isn't sure what violence **Richard Zaldivar** is speaking of, he stated that he thinks the questions lodged at Greg are unfair and they are violent and they have a message underneath them.

**Terri Jay** stated, We want to make sure that we are moving into a space that is a safe. The questions are to make sure the Co-Chairs adhere to the rules and regulations of their post.

**Alexsis Glenn** suggested that the question that was asked should not only be directed to Greg Wilson, it should be asked of all 3 nominees who are running for the Co-Chair position.

**Jeffrey King** suggested this be placed as a future agenda item. What does it really mean to create a safe space in a meeting.

**Greg Wilson** assured everyone that he deals with hatred daily. He is willing to support others that may endure hate at any time. He believes as a co-chair that he is a leader, and he knows how to utilize his skills to ensure that the tone is always set, and the environment is set to make sure everyone is consistently following the by-laws and the rules.

- **Gustavo Velez** provided an overview of why he is interested in becoming a Co-Chair for the LGBTQI2-S Subcommittee.
- **Questions for Gustavo Velez:**

How will you keep everyone in a safe space?

**Gustavo Velez** agrees that we need to keep a safe space. He understands the dynamics of what happens at these meetings and where people are coming from. He knows how to balance both sides and understands everyone's perspectives. There may be someone that he does not agree with, but he is able to understand the other person's perspective as well.

- **Renato Lira** provided an overview of why he is interested in becoming a Co-Chair for the LGBTQI2-S Subcommittee.
- **Questions for Renato Lira:**

How will you keep everyone in a safe space?

**Renato Lira** stated we need to work together. We need to listen to each other, and problem solve. We do not have to bring chaos to the meeting. We will not be able to accomplish our goals if we remain negative.

<p><b>Capacity Building Projects Discussion Proposals</b></p>	<p><b><u>Johana Lozano- Visiting School Clubs</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Project Description:</u></b> Include the voice/minds of the youth in public schools who identify as LGBTQI-2. To provide the UsCC voting members with a better understanding of the needs of the community that encompasses individuals from underrepresented communities.</p> <p><b><u>Project Purpose:</u></b> Members of the UsCC with voting rights must visit school organizations to tell them who we are, what we do, and how they can get involved.</p> <p><b><u>Project Objective:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Informing the public of our work, increasing transparency, reputation and setting examples</li> <li>● Select 3 high schools and 2 colleges in our area</li> <li>● Create a pamphlet, presentation and resources that is catered to young adults in LA County</li> <li>● Presenter becomes the key person to engage this young adult group, if interested</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Questions/Suggestions for Presenter: Johana Lozano</u></b></p> <p><b>Terri Jay</b> asked if there will be a conflict of interest with the two different age groups. Will this affect the funding?</p> <p><b>Mirtala Parada Ward</b> stated, “the UsCC funding is open to everyone from 0 to 90 years old, it’s not age specific, you can target whoever you choose to.”</p> <p><b>Renato Lira</b> suggested targeting the middle school kids.</p> <p><b>Johana Lozano</b> appreciates the comments and she would like to have a presentation at a school auditorium to discuss the recent issues related to that stigma. It may require a change in the curriculum.</p> <p><b>Claire Kobren</b> shared that it is really hard to get on campus to provide a service they need as LAUSD has a lot of restrictions.</p> <p><b>Johana Lozano</b> stated, “having good communication with management is important at LAUSD. Johanna stated she added this specifically to the proposal. She is aware that getting through the door at LAUSD will be hard.</p> <p><b>Greg Wilson</b> was wondering what happens to the other capacity building proposals that are brought to the table.</p> <p><b>Kelly Wilkerson</b> stated the proposals that were not funded last year were brought back to the table the following year. We revisit the proposals and bring them back to the table and allow the members to review them again.</p> <p><b>Gustavo Velez</b> shared the TWLMP has a similar project for queer youth. They are held at Charter and Green Dot</p>

schools only. LAUSD students are much harder to reach. Gustavo agreed that we should focus more on the younger youth schools only support the programs that are already doing the work.

**Kyle Sawyer: Turning Privilege into Change:**

**Project Description:** Develop 2 day workshops over 18 days within a year to train mental health service providers throughout LA County, to become competent working with TGNC individuals. The workshops will assist mental health service providers with the knowledge to create safer and more affirming spaces. Participants will be trained to have conversations with colleagues and within their organization to help create a cultural and institutional shift for better access and support for TGNC communities.

**Questions/Suggestions for Presenter: Kyle Sawyer**

**Sarah Brock Chavez** would like to know if the homeless youth can be included. Can it be potentially expanded to the non-mental health services population?

**Kyle Sawyer** responded that this project works for any group through an activity model that he developed. It is possible, but a different workshop that focuses on the needs of that group.

**Terri Jay** asked if the workshop facilitators from the TGNC community have lived experiences that will provide MH services to the employees.

**Richard Zaldivar** is concerned about the cultural sensitivity that impacts our community. Richard is concerned if that will be addressed because of the individual cultural struggles on top of the identity based on each culture, e.g. Native Americans, African Americans and API.

**Kyle Sawyer** replied, yes it will be addressed, in the awareness workshop they will discuss what is working through and what thinking through a cultural lens means. **Kyle Sawyer** stated this will be part of the first Workshop on day one.

**Jeffrey King** would like to add this topic to a future agenda item. What happens to all the proposals that were submitted in the past? He is concerned about proposals that were presented that were never approved by this group. What is the process once the bid goes out? Unless you can show what you put out for bid, he was not included in this list, this is unfair and this would be considered illegal. He is concerned how this process works when you don't properly put things out to bid it's a disservice to this group. He is also concerned about the accountability of the funded entities. Whoever does the work, there has to be a level of reporting back and accountability to the group.

**Kelly Wilkerson** will add this to a future agenda and follow up with ISD/Buyers to find out the status to have a bigger conversation about the process. We will invite someone from ISD to come to one of our meetings to explain the process to the entire group.

**Hector Ramirez** would like to make a recommendation to DMH to have the recordings from the meetings uploaded to YourDMH website, consider this for the public to make them aware of what is being discussed in the meetings, so there

	<p>is more transparency and more clarification, especially with some of the questions that are brought up.</p> <p><b>Kelly Wilkerson</b> stated DMH is in the process of trying to make that happen, we have ordered equipment and we have met with CIOB to discuss having our meetings on Skype, made available for the public.</p> <p><b>Co-Chair Voting:</b> Kelly Wilkerson informed the group that all voting members, including those who are running for Co-Chair, will receive a survey monkey from Kelly tomorrow.</p>
<b>Mandatory LGBTQI2-S Cultural Competency Training - Discussion</b>	<p><b>Isaias Guzman</b> provided a brief overview of what he and his organization has been doing in regards to MH Advocacy work. He stated there is a lack of LGBTQ+ Specific Mandatory Cultural Competency training for DMH staff. DMH requires all staff to be trained once a year on Cultural Competency. The Department chooses what training it is.</p> <p>He wants this subcommittee to take a motion and develop a letter to Dr. Sherin and ask that DMH staff take a mandatory annual training on LGBTQI2-S related issues.</p> <p>Mirtala explained to the members that they have a right to form a motion and develop the letter. She suggested having an adhoc committee meeting with the members, and then the Co-Chairs meet and discuss this effort with the Director. Our job is to assist you once the letter is written, and ensure a meeting with the Director.</p> <p>The members all agreed that this is something that is necessary and much needed for the LGBTQI2-S community. They are in agreeance with developing the letter and having an adhoc meeting to discuss this further. The group had an open discussion about the cultural competency training, some people were not in agreeance with the training being mandatory and some were.</p> <p><b>Hector Ramirez</b> shared that the Department needs to make this mandatory as an avenue to engage and better serve the community.</p>
<b>Training Recommendations for WET Division</b>	<p>Kelly Wilkerson shared that the WET Division is in search of training ideas and topics. The WET Division asks all the UsCC subcommittees they are also looking for qualified trainers. Yamonte Cooper was recommended as a trainer.</p>
<b>Announcements</b>	<p>Keacha Stewart will be our new Note Taker for our LGBTQI2S meetings.</p>
<b>Next Meeting</b>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 4:05pm  October 3rd, 2019 - 2:00PM – 4:00PM - 550 S. Vermont Ave. 9<sup>th</sup> floor conference room, Los Angeles, 90020</p>