

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION
UNDERSERVED CULTURAL COMMUNITIES**

**LGBTQI2-S UsCC Subcommittee
MINUTES**

October 3rd, 2019
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
550 S. Vermont

Present: Terri Jay, Hector Ramirez, Jeffrey Fuentes, Curley Bonds, Sharon Chapman, Johana Lozano, David Haynik, Claire Kobren, Jennifer Jiries, Vicky Gutierrez, Victor Cardoza, Kathryn Aguenza, & Cynthia Ruffin

By phone: Gustavo Velez, Princess Murray, Greg Wilson, Bill Sive, Ana Bernal, Gerald Garth, Josue Vega, Louis Smith III, JavonTae Wilson, Isaias Guzman, riku Matsuda, Yamonte Cooper & Jeffrey King

DMH Admin
Kelly Wilkerson, Mirtala Parada Ward

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
Welcome/ Introductions	Subcommittee Members
Membership Code of Conduct – Review and Sign	<p>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.</p> <p>Terri Jay reminded the members to be mindful and keep a professional and respectful demeanor with each other during the meeting.</p>
September Meeting Notes	September Meeting minutes were approved, with one correction. LGBTQI2-S (Project Description) Corrected!
Getting To Know You	Johanna Lozano volunteered to share with the members a few things that interest her, and things that she enjoys doing such as reading and writing poetry and playing the accordion. She also shared that she loves nature.
Capacity Building Projects Results	<p>Kelly Wilkerson provided an update in regards to the top 3 Presentations that were sent out for vote:</p> <p>Ana Bernal - Exploring 3rd Space and Story Circles with Mental Health Providers</p> <p>Kyle Sawyer - Turning Privilege into Change</p>

	<p>Mastaneh Moghadam - Iranian LGBTQ On-Line Outreach Project and 4 new LGBTQ+ workshops for the Iranian Community</p> <p>We are looking into the next steps to write the statement of work and forward it to the Internal Service Dept. Everyone will be notified once the project goes out for solicitation. Anyone who is interested will be able to bid as long as you are registered, you can bid by organization or individually.</p>
<p>LGBTQI2-S Cultural Competency Training Ad Hoc</p>	<p>This meeting will take place next Tuesday at 695 S. Vermont. For those who need parking please let Kelly Wilkerson know ASAP.</p> <p>Isaias wanted to make a formal request to DMH and Executive Management regarding mandating not just Cultural Competency Training but LGBTQI2-S specific cultural competency training. The group is going to meet to discuss this further on October 8th, 2019. Everyone is invited to join us also community members can attend as well.</p> <p>Some members were expressing concerns about a Security Guard at 550 S. Vermont who does not know what LGBTQI2-S is-he is very rude and he cannot read the schedule.</p> <p>Terri Jay expressed that all the issues are very important experiences that needs to be addressed, we need to bring this to their attention, it needs to be addressed and we need to find a solution to resolve this matter.</p> <p>Members spoke briefly in an open discussion about issues and concerns they face as clinicians and community members about how consumers and individuals are uneducated with regards to the LGBTQI2-S subcommittee.</p> <p>Dr. Curley Bonds expressed his concerns about the ongoing issues with Security, he appreciates everyone sharing their recent experiences and he shared that this is totally unacceptable and he will be addressing this issue with facilities management. Dr. Bonds is supporting the decision of the committee to come up with some guidelines in regards to training the staff. He is shocked and disappointed to hear that department as a whole has not addressed the needs of this population. Dr. Bonds is currently working with the department to create a position within DMH that will focus on making sure the department works to create safe spaces and to resolve issues and concerns that need immediate attention.</p>
<p>MHSOAC Listening Sessions – Discussion</p>	<p>Hector Ramirez shared with the committee that the Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission is hosting an event in two weeks. Hector will send the information to Kelly Wilkerson via email to share with everyone. Hector Ramirez would like to encourage stakeholders, DMH staff, Clients and Providers to the table to provide input about the type of programs that you would like to see. This is a great opportunity to share a model and see a particular model funded.</p> <p>Hector Ramirez shared there are a number of individuals facing homelessness, and a significant increase in the community, especially in the elders. Hector shared there are systemic issues that have contributed to stigma discrimination and violence.</p> <p>There is also issues concerning economics in terms of availability of housing, the LGBTQI2-S community has a history of oppression economically, and they are experiencing discrimination and denied jobs because of their identity. Some community members has Section-8 vouchers that they cannot use because they are being denied housing and turned away and unable to use a variety of resources.</p>

<p>Creating A Safe Space Discussion</p>	<p>Hector Ramirez shared information with the committee about the Creating a Safe Space Project.</p> <p>He would like to get more DMH consumers involved in the process via phone or sitting at the table. Hector Ramirez would like to have an open discussion with the members to brainstorm and come up with ideas for capacity building projects and how to engage our stakeholders. Hector Ramirez informed the members that they are having transportation issues along with time availability and accessibility.</p> <p>Hector shared that the WOW (Wellness & Outreach Workers) are available at the clinics, there are also community service centers, consumers and stakeholders who are willing to support and attend some of the meetings.</p> <p><u>Kelly Wilkerson provided an update to the committee:</u></p> <p>Kelly Wilkerson shared they are in the process of uploading all the past meeting minutes to the YourDMH website. They will upload all of the Capacity Building Projects, and statements of work. Within the next few months, the website will be updated with the bylaws, meeting minutes, statements of work, as well as some of the current projects that are in place.</p> <p>Kelly Wilkerson suggested sharing the website with some of the stakeholders and community members to increase participation.</p> <p>Those who are interested in joining any group or committee can send an email to UsCC@dmh.lacounty.gov.</p> <p>Dr. Curley Bonds suggested for the subcommittee to look at how to engage young LGBTQI2-S community members who could join the subcommittee, especially those that are homeless or socially disadvantaged. He also suggested that members of the UsCC join the SAACs so that their mission and vision is carried out. In addition, he suggested for the LGBTQI2-S UsCC meetings to take place in different service areas, so that they can reach more community members. Locations to have meetings include libraries, schools, community centers, etc. In addition, he suggested we develop promotional materials to promote the subcommittee.</p> <p>Members of the subcommittee shared their thoughts regarding the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safe space VS brave space 2. Cultural Norms 3. Language awareness <p>Many of the members shared their thoughts and provided feedback regarding how they all can become more cohesive and improve communication.</p>
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>November 7th, 2019 - 2:00PM – 4:00PM - 550 S. Vermont Ave. 9th floor conference room, Los Angeles, 90020</p>