

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
PROGRAM SUPPORT BUREAU - QUALITY IMPROVEMENT DIVISION
ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER UsCC SUBCOMMITTEE**

MINUTES – Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Location: Asian Pacific Counseling and Treatment Centers (APCTC), 520 S. LaFayette Park Pl, Los Angeles, California, 90057

ATTENDEES: Chong Suh, Elvie Quintos, Grace Park, James Moon, Jenny Tae, Joyce Javier, Kimthai Kuoch, Lilaki Liu, Lishi Leo Huang, Lolita Namocatcat, Mariko Kahn, Marina Tupua, Neha Duggal, Odette Papanian, Patricia Oh, Phaly Sam, Phil Cho, Raymond Kaneko, Ruth Satele, Stella Kim, Theresa Cho, Usophea Chim, Young Moon
DMH Staff: Ana Suarez, Treva Blackwell, Mirtala Parada Ward, Nina Tayyib, Desiree DeShay

DISCUSSIONS

- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **2/24/16 Meeting Minutes review and approval**

Mental Health Promoters Program: Follow up Discussion and Q&A (Ana Suarez, District Chief, SA 7)

Ana Suarez briefly summarized the Mental Health Promoters Program and the goals of the meeting today.

The Mental Health Promoters Program (MHPP) is based on the Promotoras de Salud model. In this model, community leaders are trained to educate their community on mental health, with a focus on prevention, and also to provide linkage to mental health resources in a culturally and linguistically competent manner. The goal is to educate those who have never received mental health services due to barriers (i.e. language, immigration status, stigma, etc.) so that if the time comes, community members feel comfortable accessing mental health services. LACDMH has implemented Promotores de Salud programs that target the Latino community over the past 6 years and the program has grown each year since its initial implementation. During the last Fiscal Year, approximately 15 Promotores provided 1000 presentations were made with approximately 10 attendees per presentation. Outcomes collected included satisfaction surveys and changes in attitude toward mental illness.

Due to the success of this program thus far, the DMH System Leadership Team (SLT) committed to expand this model to other ethnicities within LA County as part of the MHSA 3 year plan and changed the name to the Mental Health Promoters Program. Specifically, the MHPP is being expanded to the African/African-American, American Indian/Alaska Native, API and Eastern European/Middle Eastern communities. Each UsCC subcommittee is being asked to identify one ethnic/linguistic community for the MHPP to target countywide. Ana presented at the previous API UsCC meeting in February and also presented at the A3PCON Mental Health Committee meeting in March to facilitate this process.

Each UsCC subcommittee was originally allocated \$100,000 per Fiscal Year to target a specific community on an on-going basis (as long as there are MHSA dollars available). Ana stated that the amount for the first two years has been increased to \$200,000 per year at this time. The hope is that the \$200,000 budget will be continued after the first two years, but is not guaranteed at this time and may go down to \$100,000 per year. Due to the limited funding, only one ethnic/linguistic community per UsCC subcommittee will be targeted. The hope is that the program will prove to be successful and additional funding will be allocated to expand the program to additional ethnic communities. The project will be put out to bid through a Request for Services (RFS) process, which requires a submission of proposals, scoring, bidder's conference, etc. It was clarified that this project is part of the MHSA 3 Year Plan and not an UsCC Capacity Building Project. Also, it was clarified that the RFS bidding process is different and much lengthier than the bidding process for the UsCC Capacity Building Projects. Ana also discussed some of the potential outcomes measures for this program and how outcomes will be an important part of measuring the success of the program and will inform the continuation and amount of funding.

The MHPP has a required training curriculum, which would need to be translated into the home language of the targeted community. Ana and Mirtala confirmed that the cost of translation of materials will be covered by LACDMH and will not come out of the budget allocation. Ana shared that the program will be rolled out as a "Train the Trainer" model. LACDMH will identify a "Master Trainer" who will train (in English) the trainers hired by the consultant awarded the bid, to assure consistency and fidelity to the model. Those trainers will in turn train the Mental Health Promoters (MHP) in the home language. All MHPs will be bi-lingual and will provide trainings to the target community in the home language. The training handouts will be in English and also translated into the home language.

The API UsCC subcommittee was asked to identify one ethnic community (and specify the language as well) to target at the meeting. The target community does not need to speak one of the LACDMH threshold languages. After that selection has been made, Ana will be hosting 1-2 focus groups consisting of community members from the target community. The focus groups will allow for feedback on how to best tailor the MHPP training curriculum and program to meet the target community's needs in a culturally and linguistically competent manner. LACDMH confirmed that there will be no compensation for participation in the focus group. Subcommittee members recommended including funds for food as part of the program budget. Ana shared that this is helpful feedback that should be brought to the focus group.

The API UsCC subcommittee discussed which API community they would like to have targeted.

Mariko Kahn shared the recommendations of the A3PCON Mental Health Committee. She shared that the committee looked at API communities that are currently served by LACDMH funding and those who have not received any funding. For example, the ICP/ISM funding was awarded to target the Chinese, Korean, Cambodian and Samoan communities. Mental health promotion is a requirement of the ICP/ISM program. All ICP/ISM programs have continued, except for the Samoan community. However, LACDMH has awarded POE funding on an ongoing basis to SSG, who collaborates with Office of Samoan Affairs and Samoan National Nurses Association, to provide Outreach and Engagement services to the Samoan community. A3PCON considered emerging communities and communities that have limited mental health services such as the Filipino, South Asian, Thai and Pacific

Islander communities for the MHPP. Based on their assessment, A3PCON's recommendation is to use this funding to target the Filipino community. If there is additional funding, they also recommend targeting the South Asian community. Mariko made clear that the API UsCC voting members do not have to agree with the recommendations of the A3PCON Mental Health Committee and are free to choose to vote differently. Mirtala reviewed a handout that summarized the API UsCC projects that have been implemented (one-year funding) and the API communities that were previously targeted by each project .

Various potential target API communities were discussed. Some attendees recommended targeting the Filipino community, which is the largest API community in California. There was discussion about the mental health needs & barriers on the Filipino community and the lack of culturally/linguistically appropriate mental health services/resources available. Joyce Javier shared her knowledge of mental health related issues in the Filipino community, including stigma related to acknowledging mental illness and accessing mental health services, high suicidal ideation in teens that is not addressed adequately, language barriers (even though most Filipinos speak English), high rates of Filipino children in foster care, etc. There was discussion about targeting the South Asian community (Indian, Bangladeshi, Pakistani, etc.) to help address stigma with acknowledging mental illness and accessing mental health services, especially given the political climate. There was discussion about targeting the Cambodian community and representatives from Cambodian community based organizations provided information on the high rates of trauma and the continuing mental health disparity for this community. There was discussion about targeting the Samoan community, since this continues to be a community that is often accessing mental health services.

There was a brief discussion about data. Subcommittee members had been provided a link to the LACDMH Quality Improvement Work Plan Evaluation Report for CY 2014, which has the most updated data on API service utilization by ethnicity (API as a whole), threshold language or service area. Unfortunately, all the data that was requested by the API UsCC at the previous meeting was not available at this time. Mirtala confirmed that the table on Ana's PowerPoint was correct. That table indicated the number of consumers being served at DMH clinics for FY 14-15 who identified their primary language as non-English. Therefore, API consumers who indicated that English is their primary language would not be included in that table. There was discussion about some communities, such as the Samoan community, that had low numbers of consumers and how that may be a signal a need for increased outreach, as opposed to an indication of a lack of need. There was also discussion about how the numbers on the table need to be viewed relative to the size of the population of a particular community.

Mental Health Promoters Program: Voting and Focus Groups (API UsCC subcommittee)

The API UsCC had previously agreed to leave voting open to members who are active members who have attended an API UsCC subcommittee meeting and/or are on the API UsCC email list. The list of qualifying voting members was sent out before the meeting along with instructions on how to submit a vote via phone, email or in person. Ana Suarez and Treva Blackwell left the meeting before the subcommittee voted.

The API UsCC subcommittee voted to target the Filipino/Tagalog-speaking community in Los Angeles County for the Mental Health Promoters Program. The focus group was discussed and there were three interested volunteers at the meeting. DMH will follow up to schedule a date/time for

the focus group and recruit more volunteers as needed.

UsCC Capacity Building Project FY 15-16 update (Nina Tayyib)

At the previous API UsCC subcommittee meeting, the API subcommittee voted to recommend the implementation of the **API Mental Health Access, Outreach and Engagement Capacity Building Project**, which was proposed by Kimthai Kuoch, for FY 15-16. It was made clear at previous meetings that even though Kimthai proposed this project, it does not guarantee that he will be awarded the project. The project proposal is now the property of LACDMH and LACDMH has 100% administrative oversight. The project idea no longer belongs to the person who submits the idea and it is not guaranteed that the person who proposed the project will win the bid.

Since the last meeting, UsCC staff has been finalizing the Statement of Work (SOW) for the project. The API UsCC subcommittee was informed that the name of the project will be **“Multimedia Mental Health Awareness Campaign for the Cambodian and Vietnamese Communities”**. The goal of this project will be to increase awareness and knowledge of mental illness signs and symptoms as well as improve access to mental health services for the Cambodian and Vietnamese communities in LA County. This project will include linguistically and culturally appropriate mental health educational and engagement workshops and an ethnic media campaign (TV Advertisements and Newspaper articles). In order to not give an unfair advantage to any prospector, DMH is not able to provide the final Statement of Work or specify the tasks. If there is any additional information that can be shared with the API UsCC, Mirtala and Nina will inform the subcommittee via email or at a future meeting.

Mirtala informed the subcommittee that the Statement of Work (SOW) for this project should be finalized and is expected to be put out to bid by the end of April 2016. Once the SOW is finalized, the project will be put out to bid by LACDMH Internal Services Department (ISD) independently. ISD makes the decision as to who is awarded the bid and the bidding process is a public process. When ISD puts the project out to bid, there is a separate independent application process that interested parties, who are registered vendors, need to complete. Anyone can be bidder, as long as he/she is a registered vendor for LA County. A vendor can be an individual or organization. Instructions were previously provided to the API UsCC subcommittee via email on how to register as a vendor. At the meeting, API UsCC subcommittee members were reminded of this requirement. Nina will send out an email reminder regarding registering as a vendor along with instructions. The goal is to award the project by the end of June 2016 and implement soon thereafter.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 23, 2016 2:30-4:30 *NOTE: this meeting was rescheduled for July 18*
Nina will send out an email when the meeting date/time have been confirmed.