

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION
Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC)**

**LGBTQIA2-S
MEETING MINUTES**

April 2, 2020
2pm – 4pm
Teleconference

By phone: Josue Vega, Gustavo Velez, Greg Wilson, Louis Smith III, Kathryn Aguenza, Isaias Guzman, Jeffrey King, Bill Sive, Ana Bernal, Hector Ramirez, Johana Lozano, Victor Cardoza, Renato Lira, Nicole Kristal, Bryan Scheihing, Claire Kobren, David Haynik, Richard Zaldivar, Alexis Glenn, Mastaneh Moghadam, Gerald Garth, Cynthia Ruffin, Bianca Gallegos, Merry Meyers, Gia Olaes

DMH (non-voting members): Brian Navarro, Sharon Chapman, Anu Yadav, Rebecca Gitlin, Kelly Wilkerson

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
Welcome/ Introductions	Attendee introductions.
Review of minutes	Approved February 2020 meeting minutes with no changes.
DMH Update- Mirtala Parada Ward Covid -19 Public Health Crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board of Supervisors declared all County Departments to be on Emergency Crisis Status • Last 2 weeks the department has implemented an Emergency Response Disaster process • The Department is divided into 2 layers, Clinical Services & Administrative Services • All of our Services and Clinics have been considered as an essential service to the community • All services are being done remotely, the majority of the services are being provided via telehealth/tele-psychiatry • Triage services are being provided for those that need emergency services • Services for DMH has not stopped, we continue to deliver services to our clients, all contracted community mental health providers are continuing to provide services • We continue to have our street teams out in the community doing community outreach and engagement and services such as the access center hotline and PMRT are still in place • The UsCC team is working with the shelters; currently there are 13 Shelters open and they are working on opening 26 more • The Goal is to have 15,000 beds available if needed for the homeless populatio • We have some QI Shelters 1 in Playa Del Rey and Sherman Oaks, these shelters are staffed with Drs. & Nurses and MH providers

	<p><u>Open Discussion about Covid-19</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mirtala asked the group What are some specific things that are needed from the LGBTQIA2-S Community that is different from the general population? • Hector suggested a document that the LGBTQ taskforce was developing that covers best practices, cultural competence and considerations for the community • Kelly Wilkerson will forward some information from the Family Assistance Center that was developed in response to the Pulse Nightclub shooting in 2017 to aid/guide the subcommittee • Johana Lozano suggested agencies bring resources to the shelters, how are we going to make a safe space in the shelters. • Rebecca Gitlin suggested that all the shelters have a universal fact sheet or tip sheet including pronouns during intake, she recommended setting a standard of how we include folks of all identities. • Gia Olaes offered to send a fact sheet, she will send a copy in English and Spanish. • Bianca Gallegos suggested placing peer support workers at the shelters to assist the newly released prisoners, as well as having psychiatric resources available at the shelters, and have materials printed in Spanish. • Hector suggested using a response manual from the American Red Cross on LGBTQ best practices and guidelines and sent it to Mirtala. • Jeffrey King is concerned about additional resources of a safe space for transitional aged youth, who has additional resources including transitional housing and what does the inventory look like for the transitional aged youth.
<p>Storytelling and Arts-Based Methods for Community Engagement</p> <p>Anu Yadav, DMH Creative Strategist Artist in Residence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anu Yadav shared her background and experiences with the subcommittee (she is a Creative Strategist through the Department of Arts & Culture) • The Board of Supervisors approved a motion to embed artists throughout County Departments. • Anu helps with creative solutions and addresses civic issues within the community driven programs. She is assisting by building a bridge within and outside of institutions, creating art like products and applying it to the community. • She conducts site visits, listening to the grass-roots groups who are using a healing arts based method and she can provide feedback and recommendations to DMH, and attend stakeholder meetings in the Service Areas. • She is working on developing a toolkit that uses certain practices within theatre to assist with healing. • Anu will send her website to Kelly Wilkerson to forward to the Subcommittee and once the toolkit is completed, she will share with the Subcommittee.
<p>UsCC Capacity Bldg Projects</p>	<p><u>FY 18-19 – Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black LGBTQ+ Action Coalition: Gerald Garth- Provided an update to the Subcommittee • The group meets twice a month, every second Saturday 11am to 1pm and Fourth Thursday from 6 to 8pm @ The Metaphor Club at Leimert Park • The number of participants in each meeting ranges from 15 to 30 people. • Age groups ranging from teens to 50 year olds participating in both meetings. • Individuals have attended identifying all of those identities in the LGBTQIA2-S community. • Continue to see a rise in racism: institutional, community and individual. • Other themes that have brought some concern include accountability for provider structure, fiscal

	<p>accountability including leadership and data.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership Development is a major component that is important to the group, currently looking into how to create sustainability structures and infrastructure to strengthen and engage the community. • They are currently exploring ways to keep the group engaged, looking into video platforms like Zoom. • They are looking into creating an ongoing dialogue, creating a chat room style online forum to engage. • They have collected more than half of the surveys, we have a little under 200 received. <p>Kelly Wilkerson provided an update for the Story Collective Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They recently completed the 3rd deliverable and completed the art academy. • They had individuals attend a 3 day academy at the beginning of the month. • The next step is to have a community art exhibit to showcase their work, it has been postponed due to Covid-19. <p>Kelly Wilkerson provided an update on the Indigenous Pride LA Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They recruited 10 two-spirit community members to participate in the community collaborative. • They were to meet 6 times to talk about issues and concerns that they experience in the community. • APAIT will compile all the information to develop a curriculum, use that curriculum to conduct 5 workshops. • They are planning to hold their collaborative meeting through a virtual platform. <p><u>FY 19-20 - Update: Kelly Wilkerson</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been some delays due to Covid-19 • The Iranian LGBTQ Project statement of work has been submitted and approved • The service request has been submitted to ISD, they will then send it out for solicitation • The Outreach and Engagement Toolkit Project statement of work was approved recently • The Turning Privilege into Change Project – Mirtala and others attended a training last month, trainings are currently on hold. They plan to move forward with implementing the trainings once the hold is lifted. <p><u>FY 20-21 – Proposals</u></p> <p>Postponed until May or June of 2020, there is still time to submit ideas, Kelly will email out the project guidelines and application. If you prefer to submit a summary that will be ok. Please present any ideas for May and June, we will invite the person proposing those ideas to present and answer questions, then once completed we will move forward with voting.</p>
<p>Announcements</p>	<p>Next Meetings: (first Thursday of the Month)-SOME MAY BE HELD VIA SKYPE, NOTICES WILL BE SENT OUT</p> <p>5/7/20 2-4pm Strength United, 14651 Oxnard St., Van Nuys, Ca 91411 6/4/20 2-4pm 695 S. Vermont 15th Floor 7/2/20 2-4pm 550 S. Vermont Ave. 9th Floor 8/6/20 2-4pm 550 S. Vermont Ave. 9th Floor</p>