

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**  
**Strategic Communications Division**

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

March 4, 2020  
 12:00PM – 2:00PM

**Present:** Tina Charley, Raul Garcia, Monique Castro, Bernice Mascher, Sunnie Whipple, Monique Smith, Sylvia Gonzalez-Youngblood, Marissa Abril, Charlotte Lujan  
**Phone:** Farrah Ferris, Walter Ahhaitty, Andrea Garcia, Shannon Rivers,  
**DMH** Mirtala Parada Ward, Kelly Wilkerson, Connie Acosta Castaneda  
**Admin**

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
<b>Welcome, Prayer &amp; Introductions</b>	Attendee introductions, Walter Ahhaitty lead the meeting with prayer.
<b>Announcements – Subcommittee Members</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Co-Chair Results:</b> Kelly announced to the subcommittee that Raul Garcia had been voted in as the new subcommittee co-chair.</li> <li>❖ <b>Shannon Rivers:</b> Shared about the work he is doing in Arizona and California with incarcerated Native Americans.</li> <li>❖ <b>Monique Castro:</b> Updated the subcommittee on the Community Symposiums Project. All gatherings have been completed and she is working on the final summary.</li> <li>❖ <b>Monique Smith:</b> Save the Date: Spring Conference – Building on Strengths for Healthy Futures on March 19, 2020 from 8:30am – 4:30pm in the Golden Eagle Conference Ballroom at Cal State Los Angeles.</li> <li>❖ <b>Raul Garcia:</b> UAI-NADAR-Thursdays, 6-8pm, parking validation, dinner. Also, Positive Indian Parenting-Tuesdays, 11am-2pm, court approved, participants receive certificate at end. Upcoming focus groups at UAI on social connections, culture, and substance use.</li> <li>❖ <b>Sylvia Gonzalez-Youngblood:</b> Dream It Be It Conference-in Alhambra, open to all girls 14-18, career focused conference.</li> <li>❖ <b>Tina Charley:</b> AICC is in the process of developing May is Mental Health Awareness Month, requesting donations for raffle, still looking at locations for event.</li> </ul>
<b>February Meeting Minutes – Review</b>	Minutes were approved with no corrections.
<b>Follow Up from February Meeting Concerns</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Kelly Wilkerson:</b> Shared email from Angel Baker as well as letter received from Esiquio Reyes.</li> <li>❖ <b>Sylvia Gonzalez-Youngblood:</b> Expressed a hope for the subcommittee to be welcome to all ideas, even if they differ from everyone else.</li> <li>❖ <b>Sunnie Whipple:</b> Expressed concern that he came in with an agenda, even when the subcommittee tried to deescalate, he continued to attack the group.</li> <li>❖ <b>Monique Smith:</b> Shared that she found his comments to be rude and insensitive and that she did not feel safe. As</li> </ul>

a woman of color, I do not like to be referred to as “you people.” I felt offended and it shut me down. His apology was not an apology, he said “I’m sorry, but...”

- ❖ **Bernice Mascher:** Emphasized the importance of the Code of Conduct.
- ❖ **Farrah Ferris:** This was added to the agenda for the UsCC Leadership-training for leadership and best ways to respond in these types of situations.

### UsCC Capacity Building Projects

- ❖ **FY 18-19**
  - Video Showcase-both videos have been completed and are up on the DMH website.
  - Educational PSAs-Kelly to send out drafts of the PSAs that Jim from SCIC has been working on.
- ❖ **FY 19-20:** SOWs were approved by Management, will be submitted to Procurement for solicitation.
  - Media Campaign (social media)
  - Wellness Forums
  - Outreach & Engagement Toolkit-will include a video.
  - Professional Development Program-this is a HR function-Mirtala will be connecting with HR regarding this need.
- ❖ **FY 20-21:** Mirtala provided an update on the changes in the capacity building project guidelines with regards to not using funds to train DMH staff. Any project ideas related to training for mental health staff should be shared with the DMH Training Division, rather than the subcommittee having to use their funds for this. UsCC capacity building project funds should be focused on the community and outreach and engagement, stigma reduction, and promotion of mental health services.
  - **How does HR receive these recommendations or learn about the disparities? Can this be added to the UsCC Leadership agenda to talk about some of their recommendations?** DMH HR is governed by County DHR-I do not know much about this but I will find out and follow back up.
  - **At EQRO, they wanted to see more changes related to the AI/AN and the LGBTQ+ group, is there a way to go through them?** All of our staff in the County are unionized and everything related to staff has to go through the unions. Everyone is protected and classified, so anything that is required for staff (i.e. training) has to be approved also by the unions.
  - **Monique Castro:** Recommended creating a short video to give an overview to new individuals regarding some cultural norms (add to Outreach & Engagement Toolkit project).
- ❖ **Brainstorming new ideas:** Kelly read through changes on UsCC capacity building project guidelines and outlined the Survey Monkey ranking process. Mirtala reiterated that all proposals are ideas that are provided by the community, and then internally we turn them into capacity building projects and align them with DMH’s mission and vision and at times have to make adjustments to the scope of the projects.

#### Project Ideas

- Cooking demonstrations/healthy living
- Natural forms of medicine
- Holistic health

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health/Wellness workshops</li> <li>• Forums/gatherings/roundtables</li> <li>• Conversation series</li> <li>• People can share ideas via email</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Conference</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Monique Smith:</b> CSULA is having a powwow in June and is inviting Sean Sherman (chef). Sean Sherman is also coming in November-if we don't have a DMH funded conference, we can possibly do cooking demonstrations with our families (healthy eating, etc.) as a capacity building project.</li> <li>❖ <b>Mirtala</b> provided an update regarding conferences-for all County departments, all conferences have to go through a board letter approval process-the subcommittee has to give a letter justifying the conference and then internally we create and submit a board letter which can take months to be approved. As a result of this timeline and the time needed to plan a conference, it is unlikely that DMH can sponsor a conference for this year but it would be a possibility for next year.</li> <li>❖ <b>Farrah Ferris:</b> We have potential sponsors for a conference for this year, so even if DMH cannot provide support at this time, we can move forward with a conference as a community.</li> <li>❖ <b>Kelly</b> to email the subcommittee to coordinate an ad hoc to discuss conferences.</li> </ul>
<b>Meeting Adjourn</b>	Charlotte Lujan ended the meeting in Prayer.
<b>Next Meeting</b>	April 1, 2020 2:00pm – 4:00pm