

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Strategic Communications Division
LGBTQIA2-S UsCC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 7, 2020 2:00pm

Welcome/Introductions

Present: Greg Wilson, Jeffrey King, Louis Smith III, Gustavo Velez, Cynthia Ruffin, Terri Jay, Richard Zaldivar, Gerald Garth, Renato Lira, Jose Guevara, JavonTae Wilson, Bill Sive, Ana Bernal, Josue Vega, Kathryn Aguenza, Nicole Kristal, Bryan Scheihing, Alexis Glenn, Amparo Ostojic, Rebecca Gitlin, Victor Cardoza, Claire Kobren, Johana Lozano, Isaias Guzman, Brian Navarro, Sharon Chapman, Crystal Vidales, Sam Garcia, David Haynik, Addison Rose Vincent, Miguel Lorenzana, Hector Ramirez (representing Behavioral Health Task Force, California Health and Human Services Agency)

DMH Admin: Kelly Wilkerson, Sandra Chang

Getting To Know You

- Sandra Chang shared about herself and her background with the LGBTQIA2-S UsCC subcommittee.

Review April Meeting Minutes

- Minutes were approved with no corrections.

DMH Updates

(minute 18 in the audio recording)

Dr. Sandra Chang, Program Manager, Cultural Competency Unit shared information with the subcommittee regarding the new initiative: Speakers Bureau:

- Bilingual/Certified, Licensed Staff
- Speak Threshold Languages
- The department is interested in building Cultural Group Expertise
- At this time recruitment is focused on DMH staff only
- If Interested email Dr. Sandra Chang at SChang@dmh.lacounty.gov

Dr. Chang requested input from the Subcommittee regarding any LGBTQIA2-S specific needs or concerns regarding COVID-19 efforts:

- Be sure to include all of the letters: LGBTQIA2-S
- Recommendation to invite a subcommittee member to sit on this COVID-19 workgroup-Kelly to share Sandra's contact info via email as well so interested subcommittee members can reach out
- LGBTQIA2-S community has significant barriers to safe spaces
- Isolated, unable to test
- Trouble accessing emergency shelter/project room key

- Lack of emergency services
- Barriers to access resources for the transgender community
- Older adults and the homeless
- People unable to receive financial benefits
- Data Inclusion for the LGBTQIA2-S community is lacking where COVID-19 is concerned
- COVID-19 related capacity-building projects-would the community be interested?
- Contact Sandra Chang with feedback/questions at SChang@dmh.lacounty.gov

Development of a DMH Staff Survey re: LGBTQ+ Mental Health Knowledge and Skills, Current Clinical Environment, and Training Needs-

Rebecca Gitlin (minute 34 in the audio recording)

- New/First LGBTQ+ Clinical Specialist for the Department
- Provide culturally responsive services to sexual and gender minorities
- Make necessary improvements needed
- Develop a voluntary survey for DMH staff
- Develop a group of clinicians who are specialized in working with this community
- Specialized training for clinicians who want to work with transgender and non-binary folks to write letters for gender affirmation treatment
- Feedback: Do not refer to the LGBTQIA2-S community as a minority, be sure to consider intersectional identities, provide updates regularly to subcommittee
- Contact Rebecca Gitlin at RGitlin@dmh.lacounty.gov

UsCC Capacity Building Projects

- Kelly updated subcommittee regarding the departmental freeze on non-COVID related spending. Will continue to keep the subcommittee updated.

FY 20-21 – Proposals

1. Greg Wilson (minute 58 in the audio recording)

- For the SAGES
- Designed to provide a Safe and Supportive environment for Black Gay men 50 years of age and older in Los Angeles County. This project will provide Education, Support, Community Outreach, as well as provide Resources for older men. The Monthly Support Meetings; Community Forums; Outreach; Sharing of Educational Materials; Data/Survey Collection will help to address the issues and needs of older men.
 - Recommendations from subcommittee: include Black bisexual men, include Latino gay and bisexual men, focus on masculine identified individuals to include transmen and transmasculine individuals as well

2. Addison Rose Vincent (minute 65 in the audio recording)

- Non-Binary & Intersex Mental Health Study

As non-binary and intersex identities are becoming more visible and understood by the public, there remains very little data and research around mental health and related issues/challenges regarding non-binary and intersex people. With a rapidly growing population in Los Angeles, this project would focus on conducting research to better understand this community here in LA County, and provide our data and findings to community-based organizations, schools, and businesses.

- Recommendations from subcommittee: look at all age groups, focus on outreach and education-consider using different language-avoid use of the word “study” and consider “survey” or “assessment” instead and also include an educational component
- LGBTQ+ Youth Mental Health Video + Print Campaign
The campaign will focus on addressing the decrease in positive/supportive social connections and the increase in anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation experienced by LGBTQ+ youth during COVID-19.
 - Recommendations from subcommittee: propose this as a PEI project as well, be aware of structural bias and toxicity in media,
- LGBTQ+ Youth Innovation Lab & Fellowship
Despite decades of progress and inclusion for LGBTQ+ people, many LGBTQ+ youth still face unsafe and hostile school environments, as well as stigma, shame, and other barriers that prevent them from seeking support
 - Recommendations from subcommittee: propose this as a PEI project as well, consider scale so it fits within this particular funding opportunity so you don't lose the quality

Solidarity Letter (Johana Lozano) (minute 101 in the audio recording)

- Johana shared with the subcommittee a letter that she intends to share with DMH Executive Management
- Asking Dr. Sherin to attend the UsCC Leadership meeting

COVID-19 and Resources/Announcements Discussion (minute 113 in the audio recording)

- Johana shared regarding the Warmline and HeadSpace app
- Richard Zaldivar-LA Times article regarding Hector, thanked Hector for his leadership and passion
- Bill Sive-Orange County has version of Models of Pride-taking place virtually over the next few Saturdays
- Gustavo Velez-TWLMP is creating a virtual prom for the graduating seniors

Please listen to the Meeting Audio by clicking here:

<https://lacounty->

[my.sharepoint.com/:v/g/personal/kewilkerson_dmh_lacounty_gov/EYGIqgNs5xhJuanCPeVI2hQBHkkRU16H8PKintV_mmfg4g?e=1HlxJ9](https://lacounty-my.sharepoint.com/:v/g/personal/kewilkerson_dmh_lacounty_gov/EYGIqgNs5xhJuanCPeVI2hQBHkkRU16H8PKintV_mmfg4g?e=1HlxJ9)

or visit <https://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mhsa/uscc/>

Upcoming Meetings:

6/4/20, 2-4pm, Skype Teleconference

7/9/20, 2-4pm, Skype Teleconference

[Join Skype Meeting](#) OR Join by phone: 323-776-6996, Conference ID: 396652646