

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION**

**LGBTQIA2-S UsCC Subcommittee**

**MINUTES**

2-27-2020

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

550 S. Vermont 9<sup>th</sup> Floor

**Present:** Greg Wilson, Nicole Kristal, Isaias Guzman, Josue Vega, Sharon Chapman, Jeffrey King, Merry Meyers, Vic Chin, David Haynik, Johana Lozano, Amparo Ostojic,  
**By phone:** Danielle Samuel, Bill Sive, Renato Lira, Ana Bernal, Cynthia Ruffin, Victor Cardoza, Bilal Kazmi  
**DMH Admin** Kelly Wilkerson, Mirtala Parada Ward, Keacha Stewart, Jeff Gorsuch, Angelita Diaz-Akahori

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
<b>Welcome/ Introductions/ Pronouns</b>	Subcommittee Members
<b>Announcements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terri Jay unable to attend today</li> <li>• Everyone introduced themselves using pronouns</li> <li>• There will be a shift in the meeting schedule-they will be adjusted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the Month</li> <li>• No Meeting in Month of March 2020</li> <li>• Next Meeting 4/2/20 @ 695 S. Vermont, Kelly will send out notice of next meeting</li> <li>• We are testing our Skype equipment today</li> <li>• Subcommittee reviewed last month's meeting minutes with no corrections</li> <li>• Code of Conduct is to be signed once a year, scan a copy to Kelly Wilkerson</li> <li>• UsCC team will be doing presentations for the MH Commission and the SAACs (now called SALT) meetings</li> <li>• The UsCCs developed a letter and sent it to the Board of Supervisors regarding the reorganizing of the stakeholder process. The Board decided in January that the UsCCs are not going away.</li> </ul>
<b>Getting to Know You</b>	<p>Jeffrey King volunteered to share his experiences with the subcommittee members. Jeffrey has been involved with many programs and agencies throughout his years of working with the LGBTQ+ Community. Originally, from Houston, he experienced trauma from assaults from gang members, and campus police officers. He also worked for the Gay &amp; Lesbian Center 26 years ago. Jeffrey King would advocate for the youth at the Center and the Transgender Community. He was part of the Transgender Task Force. Jeffrey King is now an Elder, advocating for the Elders in his Community. He shared there are many elders who are isolated. He is continuing to provide support and resources. His intention is to be supportive to the young adults in the LGBTQ+ community.</p>

<p><b>LGBTQIA2-S Cultural Competency Training Ad Hoc Letter</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Isaias provided details about the LGBTQIA2-S Training request Letter to Executive Management. He provided an overview of the process and identified some of the needs and disparities.</li> <li>• Isaias stated what triggered this letter and why the subcommittee wants to advocate for this training-there is a need for Direct Service Providers to be culturally competent and capable of working with LGBTQ consumers.</li> <li>• We looked into what the Department currently is providing and how there is a disconnect. What is being provided in terms of trainings for service providers and what people are experiencing on a day to day basis.</li> <li>• The Department has an annual training they provide once a year to Direct Service Providers and Staff on cultural competency; however it does not require the staff or mandate them to take an LGBTQ+ specific training.</li> <li>• Multiple organizations came together and said we need LGBTQ+ mandated training to create safer spaces for this community.</li> <li>• The LGBTQ+ Mandated Training would be for all Contractors and DMH Staff.</li> <li>• The subcommittee recommended a full day of training.</li> <li>• People have had bad experiences when they visit their provider's office and they have no idea what LGBTQ+ means and they cannot get the services they really need from their provider.</li> <li>• Renato shared that there are no services provided by the County in the San Fernando Valley for the LGBTQ+ community.</li> <li>• Angelita asked how DMH can address these concerns. Nicole suggested to train the staff and have the trainer be someone who is part of the LGBTQ+ community and who understands our needs.</li> <li>• Isaias &amp; Nicole will have to explore this and will be addressing this issue with the Board office as this affects all county departments, not just DMH. Isaias will further research Mandatory LGBTQ+ trainings for the staff.</li> </ul>
<p><b>The Importance of Outcomes  Sharon Chapman</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharon Chapman had an open discussion with the subcommittee members regarding the Importance of Outcomes:</li> <li>• How do we encourage people in the community to fill out a questionnaire regarding the census? How can we encourage the community to report SOGI (Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity) during the 2020 Census Survey? How can we be counted as an LGBTQ+ community?</li> <li>• Johana explained how she would measure the reduction of stigma through pre and posttests from participants and parents. She explained there are different ways to collect data and develop a data assessment tool.</li> </ul>

<p><b>UsCC Capacity Building Projects</b>  <b>FY18-19</b>  <b>FY 19-20</b>  <b>FY 20-21</b></p>	<p><b>2018-2019</b> – Kelly Wilkerson provided an update regarding the current capacity building projects.</p> <p><b>2019-2020</b> – Projects are moving to the next level, SOWs have been finalized</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>2020-2021 – Community Theatre Project/Ana Bernal</b></p> <p><b>Project Description:</b> The LGBTQIA2-S Mental Health Awareness &amp; Empowerment Community Theatre Project is a project that will promote mental health awareness, training and education to increase mental health education and to reduce stigma within the LGBTQIA2-S community. The project goal is to increase awareness and engage individuals to develop and implement their stories through a series of trainings and to open access points for mental health services.</p> <p><b>Project Purpose:</b> The purpose of the LGBTQIA2-S Mental Health Awareness &amp; Empowerment Community Theatre Project is to recruit 8-15 LGBTQIA2-S self-identified community members, develop a 6-8 week curriculum to assist community members in developing their stories and scripts and offer mental health education and access to resources about mental health services in the community. After the trainings, the pieces will be made into theatre style readings with actors to be presented in Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Service Areas (1-8). It also offers an opportunity for LACDMH to directly connect with the community and offer information and resources about reducing mental health stigma within the LGBTQIA2-S community.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>2020-2021 LGBTQIA2-S Storytelling Project for residents of Skid Rowe/Nicole Kristal</b></p> <p><b>Project Description:</b> Homelessness is one of the largest issues facing Los Angeles. But what most Angelenos don't realize is that LGBTQIA2-S people are disproportionately impacted by homelessness because of their sexuality and gender identities, with LGBTQIA2-S Los Angeles facing higher rates of homelessness than their peers. This storytelling project would reveal the challenges faced by LGBTQIA2-S homeless people, including being rejected from homeless shelters because of their gender identity and navigating the religious shelter system that may or may not accept their identities.</p> <p><b>Project Purpose:</b> This project is needed because according to homeless workers on skid row, LGBTQIA2-S identities are still not being addressed by the city or the religious organizations serving this population. There are no LGBTQIA2-S safe spaces on skid row where folks can be assured a bed for the night or a meal without having to consume it while listening to a reverend preaching against their values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How will we address the safety of the individuals in the Documentary?</li> </ul>
<p><b>2020 Meeting Schedule</b></p>	<p><b>4/2/20</b> - 695 S. Vermont Avenue 15<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  <b>5/7/20</b> - Strength United 14651 Oxnard St, Van Nuys, CA 91411  <b>6/4/20</b> - 695 S. Vermont Avenue, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  <b>7/2/20</b> - 550 S. Vermont Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  <b>8/6/20</b> - 550 S. Vermont Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  <b>9/3/20</b> - 695 S. Vermont Avenue, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  <b>10/1/20</b> - TBD  <b>11/5/20</b> - 695 S. Vermont Avenue, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  <b>No meeting in December</b></p>