

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Strategic Communications Division
LGBTQIA2-S UsCC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 4, 2020 2:00pm

Welcome/Introductions

Present: Greg Wilson, Terri Jay, Rebecca Gitlin, Bill Sive, Jeffrey King, Josue Vega, Louis Smith III, JavonTae Wilson, Gerald Garth, Merry Meyers, Amparo Ostojic, Sharon Chapman, Johana Lozano, David Haynik, Jamie Estrada, Cecilia Cruz, Nicole Kristal, Claire Kobren, Mastaneh Moghadam, Alexis Glenn, Addison Rose Vincent, Jae Canas, Cynthia Ruffin, Renato Lira, Brian Navarro, Makesha Jones Chambers, Bianca Gallegos, Hector Ramirez (representing as a LACDMH consumer and ACCESS California State Ambassador)

DMH Admin: Kelly Wilkerson, Keacha Stewart

Getting To Know You:

- Cynthia Ruffin from COLORS-LGBTQ Counseling Services at Antioch University shared regarding why she works in non-profits for the LGBTQIA2-S community and her passion for the community.

Review May Meeting Minutes (minute 15 in the audio recording)

- Minutes were **not** approved. New Format is not acceptable per subcommittee. Kelly to follow up with stakeholder management (Pinki Mehta, Angel Baker, Mirtala Parada Ward) and will follow up with subcommittee.
- Jeffrey King requested that DMH make a statement regarding Black Lives Matter. Kelly to share that feedback with management.
- Bill Sive requested an updated copy of the attendance roster. Kelly to send out via email.
- Johana Lozano recommended adding an ongoing agenda item: Accountability Session

UsCC Capacity Building Projects

a. FY 20-21 – Proposals (February – June meetings)

i. All Proposals

- 1. Nicole Kristal (presented at February meeting)**
- 2. Ana Bernal (presented at February meeting)**
- 3. Addison Rose Vincent (presented at May meeting)**
- 4. Greg Wilson (presented at May meeting)**
- 5. Hector Ramirez (minute 33 in the audio recording)** – shared his project called the Peer Mental Health Support Network for LGBTQIA2-S via Zoom. The focus is to support our peers, members of the lgbtq community, providing a safe space, a check-in system where they can connect with mentors and other agencies, peers supporting peers, supporting information on mental

health issues. This service can provide support for many clients because social distancing is an issue currently. The funding would cover peer stipends, equipment (laptop, cell phone, microphone, etc.), services contracted, translators, internet, utilities, Zoom membership and administrative support. These services can be delivered on a weekly basis and adjusted accordingly due to Covid-19.

6. **Cynthia Ruffin (minute 67 in the audio recording)** – provided the subcommittee with information regarding the Abusua Pa Black LGBTQ+ Parents and Caregivers Support Group. This group will provide a safe/brave space and advocacy resources for parents and caregivers of Black LGBTQIA2-S youth. The purpose of this group is to engage Black African American parents and caregivers in learning about and supporting their children who are LGBTQIA2-S identified. Counseling is provided free of charge, they focus on the youth, their families and partnerships. This program has an approach to healing that considers the family and larger communities. The objective of this program is to connect family members and caregivers of the LGBTQIA2-S identified by developing a community that will be acknowledged, heard and respected in their experiences and cultural needs. They will also acquire tools and resources needed to advocate with the teachers, principals and school board for K-12 age youth.

MHSA Three-Year Plan (minute 92 in the audio recording)

- MHSA Three Year Plan - Johana Lozano shared information with the subcommittee that the MHSA Three-Year plan has been developed. She wants to start an ad hoc group that she will facilitate. The executive summary is well written, it explains the different types of funding, more trainings for consumers. Johana pointed out some sections of the 200 page document that should have community input in the community planning process. She stated the subcommittee should get together and discuss this further before the deadline on June 26th. 2020.
- Johana asked the subcommittee members to think about joining the ad hoc group. She would like the members to read the executive summary. Kelly to assist with coordinating/scheduling the ad hoc group.
- Hector Ramirez encouraged everyone to join this particular group. Hector stated we need to ensure that the capacity of our consumers does not get disrupted. Amparo Ostojic shared that elements of the community planning process were not accomplished including public comments. They should not be listed in the Three-Year Plan because the community planning process did not take place (i.e. no top down).

General Announcements/Community Check In (minute 112 in the audio recording)

- Bill Sive suggested sending an advocacy letter to Sacramento that LGBTQIA2-S data should be included in all matters. He would like the subcommittee to support his decision and review the letter with all the necessary information.
- Amparo shared with the subcommittee that she is still awaiting a response from a previous email to the Mental Health Commission requesting the UsCCs have a two-minute report during their Commission meetings. She will forward this email again to the previous recipients, and she will forward a copy to Kelly to share with the subcommittee.

Please listen to the Meeting Audio by clicking here:

https://lacounty-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/kewilkerson_dmh_lacounty_gov/EdmwhGooF61Pip6KmSVF4joBLY4vii8ZipLrN4afOmqzgA?e=JK9hqz

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

Upcoming Meetings:

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

8/6/20, 2-4pm, Teleconference

9/3/20, 2-4pm, Teleconference

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