

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**  
**Strategic Communications Division**  
**American Indian / Alaska Native (AI/AN) UsCC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**  
 July 8, 2020  
 2-4pm

**Present:** Monique Smith, Farrah Ferris, Monique Castro, Tina Charley, Hector Ramirez, Shannon Rivers, Robyn Gomez, Elena Nourrie, Gabriel Pimentel, Charlotte Lujan, Mark Parra  
**DMH Admin:** Kelly Wilkerson, Sandra Chang and Connie Acosta Castaneda

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
<b>Welcome, Prayer &amp; Introductions –</b>	Farah Ferris lead the meeting with prayer, Attendee introductions.
<b>June Meeting Minutes – Review</b>	Minutes have been reviewed and approved by Hector Ramirez and seconded by Robyn Gomez. Kelly to confirm when the recordings will be uploaded to the DMH UsCC website.
<b>Co-Chairs Nominations</b>	<p>Kelly Wilkerson received 2 Co-Chair Nominations so far. One was for Sylvia Youngblood and the second nomination was for Shannon Rivers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kelly will follow-up with Sylvia and Shannon to see if there is any interest.</li> <li>• Kelly also to confirm with management is Shannon will be eligible as he does not reside in LA County.</li> <li>• If you would like to nominate someone or yourself, email Kelly at <a href="mailto:KeWilkerson@dmh.lacounty.gov">KeWilkerson@dmh.lacounty.gov</a></li> <li>• The plan is to move forward with elections via Survey Monkey if everyone agrees.</li> </ul> <p><b>Raul Garcia</b> accepted a position with the Department of Mental Health. The UsCC subcommittee Co-Chairs cannot be DMH employees. He will continue to assist until a new Co-Chair is identified.</p> <p>Farah’s term as Co-Chair is also ending in August.</p>
<b>Second Talking Circle – Discussion</b>	<p><b>Farah Ferris:</b> Updated the subcommittee on the Second Talking Circle. We would like to thank Shannon Rivers for his help in facilitating that conversation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We received positive feedback, and openness, transparency and support.</li> <li>• There was a suggestion to have another Talking Circle and have it open so we can check in on each other at this COVID time.</li> </ul> <p><b>Shannon Rivers:</b> I thought it went really well. Everyone was talking and getting to know each other. Talking about some of the stresses that we are feeling like Black Lives Matter and concerns about COVID. My question is; What is the overall goal with the Talking Circle? How do people see it proceeding if we do have another Talking Circle with regards to this</p>

	<p>committee? What is it that we are looking to hopefully expand to the larger community, for their wellness and mental health for the public.</p> <p><b>Farrah Ferris:</b> This is a funded MHSA subcommittee, so it is open to all community members. This Talking Circle is not directly under the subcommittee as it is not run by DMH or recorded. It is developed and facilitated by the community..</p> <p><b>Robyn Gomez:</b> I would like to thank everyone that was involved. Thank you Shannon, it was a great way to connect. The Talking Circle was a very nice space to be a part of.</p>
<b>Subcommittee Name – Discussion</b>	<p>The subcommittee agreed to postpone item #5 until the August meeting.</p>
<b>Community Leadership Team Meeting – Discussion</b>	<p><b>Sandra Chang:</b> There are two parts that are being asked:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This meeting was requested by some of the UsCC subcommittee Co-Chairs. They wanted some time with our Director to share about particular concerns, needs and advocate and ask questions and to get a sense of where the Department Leadership is going in terms of areas of concerns they might have.</li> <li>2. Reinstate UsCC Leadership Team Meetings that were occurring every month prior to COVID-19.</li> </ol> <p>The UsCC Leadership meetings have been reinstated. The next meeting will be on July 21,2020 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm via Microsoft TEAMS. Kelly will send out UsCC Leadership Team meeting information.</p> <p><b>Farrah Ferris</b> would like to know if community members other than a Co-Chair can attend the meeting?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Sandra Change will inquire about it.</li> </ul> <p><b>Hector Ramirez:</b> I was part of that effort to request the meeting with the Director. I am looking forward to meeting with the actual intent for some intentional action from the Department. The pressing priorities that our community is facing, and the needs we might have. Also making recommendations for funding priorities. Official recommendations for the Three-Year Plan that are Culturally relevant for our communities. I would like to recommend to this UsCC Subcommittee: To make an Official Recommendation to the Mental Health Commission. Right now that they are reviewing their 3-year plan, to include this idea as a MHSA funded project so it may continue. For funding moving forward, take into consideration that the Department has some difficult challenges coming up and I want to make sure the needs of the community are at the forefront when they are making those decisions.</p>
<b>MHSA Three-Year Plan – Feedback</b>	<p><b>Farrah Ferris:</b> Open it up to a vote. We can research and process what that Three-Year Plan is. Also can we get a look at what the previous Three-Year Plan was in regards of our population and other underserved community.</p> <p><b>Kelly Wilkerson:</b> Regarding the Mental Health Commissioners meeting that took place last week. The outcome to that meeting was that the Mental Health Commission opted not to vote on the MHSA Three-Year Plan, and instead send it back to The Board of Supervisors because they received lots of public comments from the Stakeholders of the UsCC groups, the SALTs, and the CCC with a lot of concerns about the Three-Year Plan.</p> <p><b>Farrah Ferris:</b> The feedback that I received from a few different groups was that it is a good thing to send it back. Funding will look different, we need to give a lot of thought into something that is going to impact the community.</p>

	<p><b>Hector Ramirez:</b> Prop 63 is a Millionaires tax bill and people that own some of the most precious stolen land from people that are Native in this State and Nation. To have a program that collects money based on the land tax of the people of this land and not to have people from this subcommittee and the community that we represent is a complete act of racism. As the Department moves in engaging Stakeholders regarding Prop 63, that needs to be a priority to engage our Indigenous community in LA County. To not do so will cause mental harm to our community, that is definitely the opposite of the Bill and the intent of the County.</p> <p><b>Kelly</b> will send out via email today or tomorrow the previous Three-Year Plan and then the most recent draft that was shared with the Mental Health Commission last week.</p>
<p><b>General Announcements</b></p>	<p><b>Sandra Chang:</b> The CCC is starting a new youth group called; Youth Advisory Group. In time it will be a new UsCC.</p> <p><b>Monique Castro:</b> Community events coming up are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virtual Meeting Circle planned for the end of this month. RSVP's have been shared.</li> <li>• Water Color Paint night; Series of three different workshops. You can attend all three or just one. Class is \$20 includes kit and materials need for all three sessions.</li> <li>• We did a partnership with Hood Herbalism to go over plant medicine specifically in this time of COVID, classes are free, everyone is welcomed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Elena Nourrie:</b> We have our last Virtual Wellness Circle this Thursday 7/9/20 in partnership with Pukuu Cultural Community Services from 3:00pm – 5:00pm.</p> <p><b>Robyn Gomez:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wellness Circle in collaboration with ICOW: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/o/indegenous-circle-of-wellness-18961698223">https://www.eventbrite.com/o/indegenous-circle-of-wellness-18961698223</a></li> <li>• We will be having a Pow Wow drive-by. This is a census event happening in the San Fernando Valley on Tuesday June 28, 2020. I will submit the links and registration for this event.</li> <li>• OSES program (One Stop Emergency Services) Are doing food deliveries for the Elderly, homeless and pregnant women. We need a little more support with food, diapers and hygiene products.</li> </ul> <p><b>Hector Ramirez;</b> Two important meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On 7/16/20 The Department of Health Services, Behavioral Health Advisory Committee. They are making Mental Health recommendations for the Governor. We need someone to speak about this subcommittee and comment their experience with the Department and promote some of the successes from the UsCCs. Now that we are dealing with COVID-19.</li> <li>• On 7/23/20 Mental Health Services and Oversight Commission, it will be conducted remotely by ZOOM.</li> </ul> <p><b>Farrah Ferris:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UAll Prevention and Aftercare-our workforce is still on going and they are taking on clients and community members. There are offices in Orange Co. and in Los Angeles. We have over 53 workshops a month. We have every age group from toddlers to seniors and Elders.</li> <li>• Also we will be doing a Youth program next week. We are ¾ full. The good thing about being virtual is we can add on more Youth ages 14 – 17.</li> <li>• Adult and Child virtual movie making workshops on August 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020.</li> <li>• We are still planning an Indian Day and asking for feedback that will be a virtual participation and somewhat out in the field.</li> </ul>

<b>Meeting Adjourn</b>	Charlotte Lujan ended the meeting in Prayer.
<b>Next Meeting</b>	August 5, 2020 2:00pm – 4:00pm <hr/> <a href="#">Join Microsoft Teams Meeting</a> <a href="#">+1 323-776-6996</a> United States, Los Angeles (Toll) Conference ID: 600 729 535# <a href="#">Local numbers</a>   <a href="#">Reset PIN</a>   <a href="#">Learn more about Teams</a>   <a href="#">Meeting options</a> <hr/>