

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Strategic Communications Division
Black & African Heritage UsCC Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2020 2:00pm

Welcome/Introductions:

Present: Romalis Taylor, Dr. Sandra Chang, Desiree Deshay, Keacha Stewart, Senait Adamassu, Wendy Cabil, Erica Melbourne, Blake Johnson, Marilyn Huff, Pharoah Mitchell, Nadeline Walker, Romalis Taylor, Laneay London, Reba Stevens, Rosy Tellez, Phyllis Griddine, Carline Davis, Cleo Ray, Mr. Stevens, Sonya

Desiree DeShay welcomed Wendy Cabil as the new elected Co-Chair for the Black & African Heritage UsCC Subcommittee. Wendy was honored to be selected as the new Co Chair. Romalis Taylor set in for the meeting today, because Nakeya Fields was unable to attend.

Review of Meeting Minutes:

Desiree updated the subcommittee that during the September meeting there were technical difficulties and the meeting was not recorded.

Desiree asked the members to provide a brief summary of notes to contribute in the completion of the September minutes. They will be shared at the November meeting along with the October meeting minutes.

Desiree DeShay welcomed the new members and explained the voting rules of the subcommittee. 50% of the meetings need to be in attendance to qualify for voting privileges. The Liaison's calculate how many meetings a member has attended, this is how they know if they are eligible to vote.

Desiree DeShay updated the subcommittee members, moving forward the Liaisons will meet and discuss the agenda with the Co-Chairs to gather their input and feedback for the upcoming meetings.

Discussion of the History & Purpose of the UsCC Code of Conduct – Desiree DeShay

- To ensure that everyone conduct themselves in a professional and appropriate manner.
- When situations occur sometimes it has to be discussed because the meeting becomes heated or the topic discussed brings tension to the group.

- The code of conduct will be sent out to everyone, read it thoroughly and please sign and scan it back to the Liaison

DMH Updates DSW Covid.19 – Dr. Sandra Chang

- Dr. Sherin held a Townhall, and a presentation was discussed surrounding the Home Project. DMH has a program to work specifically with the homeless community.
- The Department is outreaching to the community prior to the holidays regarding public gatherings and staying safe during this pandemic
- Dr. Jorge Partida is the lead for the expansion of the Health Promoters projects to the UsCC communities
- Each UsCC will provide their input on the needs and specific outreach and engagements that would work for their community
- The Department is reaching out to all of the UsCCs to provide any training recommendations for the Black & African Heritage subcommittee.
- Dr. Sandra Chang asked the group to provide their feedback regarding any training recommendations for staff
- The Board approved a motion for the promoters program to all of the UsCC groups. Dr. Jorge Partida, Chief of Psychology is the lead.
- Romalis Taylor recommended an MDR training for African American Clinicians to engage with the African American community
- Wendy Cabil asked about Racial Equity Training. Dr. Chang stated they have been discussing this topic and looking into moving forward.
- The Department plans to have staff trained on racism and topics on social unrest. The facilitator is Dr. Rigoberto Rodriguez
- Dr. Chang shared that the training recommendations will be forwarded to upper management and the training division
- Wendy Cabil expressed concerns about the Black & African Heritage need facilitators who can give insight to the areas that they lack
- Dr. Sandra Chang stated, Dr. Rodriguez training partner is Dr. Shametrice Davis. She is developing the training models with Dr. Rodriguez
- Dr. Sandra Chang asked the group to provide their recommendations within then next week, no later than the 30th of October.
- Ms. Nakeya provided a recommendation to train the staff on how to work with clinicians around issues on racism and social unrest.
- Marilyn suggested Training on the impact and intergenerational trauma and the assessment and treatment techniques and extend it to the community
- Phyllis suggested emotional intelligence trainings
- Laneay suggested training on actual psychological theories for African Americans and people of color, would like DMH to connect with the Association of Black Psychologists and the Latinos of that organization.
- Pharoah Mitchell suggested a course on how to build rapport with your clients he developed for DCFS that will also work for DMH
- Romalis Taylor informed the subcommittee about the Promotoras program, they are expanding the program to include Black & African Heritage UsCC as well as other UsCC's.
- Volunteers to go out to the community, this is a short term project using Covid funding through December.
- DMH's goal is to recruit black and African heritage to go out to the community, the peers, stakeholders, TAY youth and parents.
- This money has to be spent by December of 2020
- Romalis Taylor discussed the flyer with the subcommittee, he asked for their feedback and recommendations.
- Romalis asked the members for ideas and suggestions and send their suggestions to the Co-Chair and the Liaison.
- Romalis asked the subcommittee to modify the draft flyer to be more relevant for the Black & African Heritage community members.
- The health promoters/workers will be offered a salary of \$16 to \$22 dollars and hour

- Dr. Chang shared this opportunity is for each committee/community to craft a health promoters program that will consist of outreaching and engaging and providing services to each community.
- Dr. Chang expressed this opportunity is for everyone to come together and create the training and make sure the way in which the promotoras are recruited and trained that it would speak for the Black & African Heritage UsCC committee and other communities
- Dr. Chang shared that there are conversations happening with the finance experts in the department, the amount of funding awarded isn't available at this time, a follow up will be provided at a later date.
- Desiree DeShay will forward the email and application information to everyone to review it thoroughly before submitting.
- Romalis stated they are looking for volunteers and peers at the community level
- Romalis shared he will be meeting with the department in the upcoming week, he advised everyone to send their information in through email to the Co-Chairs and Desiree.

Update on Current Capacity Building Projects

- Desiree DeShay updated the subcommittee on the current capacity building projects that are back on virtually.
- Dr. Grant Community Agents of Change
- Candy Lewis is working with the youth doing the community youth ambassadors project in antelope valley, targeting youth age 18 to 25
- Desiree stated she hopes to have a conversation to discuss the two projects that were awarded for 19/20
- The Black & African subcommittee goal is to discuss at the November meeting a dialogue of the projects for 20/21

Discussion regarding community needs with COVID-19- Wendy Cabil

- Wendy Cabil shared her experiences as a peer, what she has been dealing with, and the support she needs from everyone
- Wendy Cabil shared information about Stay Housed LA, they offer workshops twice a day, and new information on those facing evictions
- Wendy Cabil shared there is a Declaration form that tenants need to complete if they are facing issues with paying their rent
- Wendy shared there is money available to assist those who are facing financial help, there is a deadline to apply for this money in December.
- Legal Aid Foundation is another resource for people to reach out for help and/or assistance @ lafla.org.
- Wendy shared a new bill was passed to protect tenants from eviction if they are facing financial crisis due to covid.19
- Wendy shared the Board of Supervisors is aware of this issue and there are Landlords who intentionally want to evict tenants.
- Wendy shared that there are community members talking to the board relaying community concerns to them
- Romalis Taylor suggested a webinar to get the word out about Stay Housed LA and get the experts to explain to the community
- Desiree DeShay agreed on the webinar through Microsoft Teams platform, and organizations may want to help without the cost
- Wendy Cabil is concerned about the transportation issue in Antelope Valley, they are offering drive thru pantry
- Marilyn Huff suggested learning programs for parents who never owned a computer

Announcements:

- Desiree will share the information with the subcommittee via email about an upcoming event in Antelope Valley

Upcoming Meetings : 11/18/20
