

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Strategic Communications Division
LGBTQIA2-S UsCC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Thursday September 3, 2020 2-4 pm

Welcome/Introductions:

Present: Greg Wilson, Nicole Kristal, Bill Sive, Gustavo Velez, Kathryn Aguenza, Isaias Guzman, Jeffrey King, Ana Bernal, Hector Ramirez, Victor Cardoza, JavonTae Wilson, Renato Lira, Claire Kobren, David Haynik, Gerald Garth, Cynthia Ruffin, Bianca Gallegos, Alexis Glenn, Addison Rose Vincent, Live Salas, Miguel Diegas, Alex Reynoso, Stevie Cole, Luis Macedo, Jessica Marroquin, Maggie Faye, Mary Mojica, Yesenia Ruiz, Brian Navarro, Sarah Brock Chavez, Rebecca Gitlin

DMH Admin: Kelly Wilkerson, Sandra Chang, Keacha Stewart

Getting To Know You:

Brian Navarro is a Clinician and LCSW with the Department of Mental Health, he shared his background and experiences with the group including his work with the AIDS project in South Africa, and his experience living in Japan for over a year teaching English.

Membership Code of Conduct:

Co-Chair Greg Wilson read and reviewed the code of conduct with the members.

Review of August 2020 Meeting Minutes:

Meeting Minutes Approved

Addressing Concerns with DMH Service Providers:

Bill Sive shared the recent issues and concerns the Long Beach LGBTQ Center is facing. The Executive Director was put on leave back in June for a discrimination complaint from an organized campaign that aired out all of the grievances. The Executive Director is no longer employed as of September 1, 2020. Bill stated there is an Interim Director in place while they search for a new Director. Bill is concerned about the consumers, what do they do about service providers who are treating people of color and vulnerable communities unfairly. The group shared their ideas and suggestions.

- Kelly shared with the group that all consumers can contact Patient's Right's Program Manager, Martin Hernandez, mhernandez@dmh.lacounty.gov to address their issues and concerns
- Cynthia Ruffin suggested an implicit bias training.
- Bill shared the human relations commission is assisting him with providing the framework to establish an LGBTQ Commissioner task force.
- Subcommittee members discussed the need for a larger conversation related to systemic racism, lateral violence, and communication. Kelly to share this feedback with UsCC management.

New Capacity Building Projects – How best to evaluate/weigh in on process and outcome:

- Jeffrey King recommended that DMH should adhere to the process in which funding is distributed through the legal appropriations process

established by the city and county of Los Angeles.

- Jeffrey stated if you propose a project, it is not guaranteed that you will be funded for the project, as it often goes to the lowest bidder.
- Jeffrey suggested every funded individual in the organization that is awarded a particular project should provide a report back to this subcommittee on a quarterly basis regarding process and outcome evaluation.
- Jeffrey would like the group to vote that vendors should report back quarterly and annually regarding how the funding was utilized for each project.
- Kelly will forward the information about the bidding process to the group.

Upcoming Projects:

- **Mental Health Conference**-Kelly stated the group can revisit the conference in January to see if they will proceed or choose another project due to COVID.
- **LGBTQ Black Parents and Care Givers support group**-pre and post surveys will be done while the program is taking place.
- **Non-Binary and Intersex Mental Health Survey**-Virtual survey done remotely and data is compiled by the vendor along with recommendations and feedback for DMH on how to reach the Non-Binary and Intersex communities.
- **LGBTQ+ Youth Mental Health Media Campaign**-Any PSAs can be developed and recorded remotely or in a socially distance environment.
- **LGBTQ+ Innovation lab and fellowship**-Any meetings of the fellows can be held virtually or a socially distant environment.

Community Check In:

- Hector Ramirez shared peers are afraid to go to the hospital that doesn't allow visitors, they don't want to go to the hospital alone

General Announcements/Questions:

- Claire updated the members on their virtual zoom meetings for the support groups. Claire will send out the links via email. She shared there are two new tool kits SA1 & SA5.
- Sandra Chang provided an update that Mirtala Parada Ward is moving to another position at a clinic. Dr. Partida the chief of Psychology is taking on the role as the Program Manager for the UsCC.
- Sandra Chang shared that the CCC is now providing several presentations. The next topic discussed will be on suicide prevention. Sandra Chang asked if anyone is interested in talking about issues that are important to the LGBTQ community, please let Kelly or Sandra know. Sandra asked the group to think about self-nominating someone or nominate a member.
- Ana Bernal shared that Nickelodeon is looking for 8 more families with kids ages 9-12, the interviews will be on Zoom. Ana stated she will share the information with Kelly to send out to everyone.

Audio Recording of Meeting:



[LGBTQIA2-S UsCC Meeting](#)

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You can access the recording by creating a free account on MS Teams:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/microsoft-teams/free>

Upcoming Meetings:

10/1/20, 2-4pm, Microsoft Teams Meeting

11/5/20, 2-4pm, Microsoft Teams Meeting

December: No Meeting

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