

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Strategic Communications Division
LGBTQIA2-S UsCC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Thursday November 5, 2020 2-4 pm

Welcome/Introductions

Present: Greg Wilson, Nicole Kristal, Bill Sive, Gustavo Velez, Jeffrey King, Ana Bernal, Hector Ramirez, Johana Lozano, JavonTae Wilson, Claire Kobren, Gerald Garth, Cynthia Ruffin, Bianca Gallegos, Alexis Glenn, Merry Meyers, Jamie Estrada, Bryan Scheihing, Emme Fayez, Stevie Cole, Corey Nakashima, Danielle Hurwitz, Jake Rostovsky, Lina Brusasco, Shahana Osman, Sohaib Butt, Sharon Chapman, Sarah Brock Chavez, Rebecca Gitlin, Andre (?), Cherisse (?)

DMH Admin: Kelly Wilkerson, Sandra Chang, Keacha Stewart, Pinki Mehta

Getting To Know You – Jake Rostovsky volunteered to share his background and experiences with the committee. Jake is a Licensed Mental Health Clinician, he has a nonprofit called Queer Works, Jake explained that his passion and goal is to provide affordable, affirmative and accessible Mental Health Services to the LGBTQ+ Community. Jake is the Chair of the Trans Advisory Board as well. Jake loves forensic shows and, he is obsessed with dogs and animals.

Membership Code of Conduct Co-Chair Greg Wilson read and reviewed the code of conduct with the members,

Review of October 2020 Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes Approved

MHSA Presentation & Discussion:

- Dr. Sandra Chang provided data that shows population and demographics around clients served by DMH, specifically surrounding regarding the LGBTQIA2-S community.
- Dr. Chang explained what the numbers mean and stated the department is looking into how we can improve services for the community. The data that was shared is relevant to SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity). Sandra shared the County departments uses a model established by the state on how the data is collected. She reiterated that the conversation is necessary to better understand clients' needs, and how the department can be more responsive.
- Dr. Chang shared the data that was divided is by race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, language spoken and SA. The data is collected based on how the consumer express and identify themselves.
- Sara Brock Chavez asked how does DMH collect the data. She completes assessments and there is not a place in IBHIS to enter sexual orientation.
- Hector Ramirez stated he does not see himself represented from the data collected in SA2 or SA3, or the Native American or Latino. He stated in 2015 a recommendation was made to collect SOGI data.
- Dr. Chang stated this is the reason the department is meeting with the UsCC to learn the needs of the LGBTQIA2-S community.

- Dr. Chang stated there are satisfaction survey questionnaires collected twice a year and data is accumulated and reported to the state. Providers are selected to participate in the satisfaction survey questionnaires during the time collection period.
- Dr. Rebecca Gitlin addressed the questions and concerns of the members and assured them work is in process to collect more accurate data. She assured the subcommittee that she is working closely with the clinical management team and have made changes in the EHR system. She will share the proposal with the subcommittee members that was submitted.
- Nicole Kristal asked if the department can send an email to the subcommittee on how this data was collected.
- Pinki Mehta to look into it and bring the information back to the subcommittee.
- Jeffrey King expressed concerns about the zero percentage in SPA 4 and SPA 6, there is a large number of African American gay men from these areas.
- Pinki explained the data that is collected is for reporting purposes, it is not connected to funding. The data being shared is to look at where disparities exist and to fill those gaps in the community where the needs are.
- Danielle Hurwitz suggested there may be a training issue, and to develop a training on assessments.
- Sohaib Butt suggested that high school students take a gender identity class or a racial studies class that is mandatory for all students before graduation.
- Pinki asked the members in their spare time to take the MHSA survey and answer some of the needs assessments questions. Kelly to send out the survey link to the subcommittee members.

Developing Group Norms – Follow Up – Review Code of Conduct/Recommendations for Changes, Additions, Addendum

- A draft of a mission statement and vision statement was shared with the subcommittee members to review and give their feedback
- The subcommittee held an open discussion and provided their feedback and suggestions to make changes to the mission and vision statement
- Nicole Kristal asked the members about revising the co-chair guidelines
- The Code of Conduct was reviewed and a discussion took place regarding how to enforce the code of conduct (i.e. a policy for first warnings and violations, second warnings and being muted in the meetings)
- Jeffrey King shared there should be a time during the meeting where public comments or concerns can be addressed
- Greg Wilson shared that at the last meeting it was discussed to add the community check-in back into the agenda for members to share their thoughts
- Nicole discussed a grievance policy to addresses personal issues or grievance concerns with members in the group.
- Nicole shared that members may be in need of MH services and it should be shared in the group at future meetings how to get help.
- Jeffrey and Cynthia Ruffin agreed there should be a policy in place for the members to feel safe at the meetings.
- Nicole Kristal asked that if anyone feels they are being attacked in a meeting, please let her and Greg know as the co-chairs so it can be addressed.
- Merry Meyers suggested a time limit be put in place to decide if and when a situation should go forward to a grievance process

DMH LGBTQIA2-S Mental Health Initiative

- Dr. Rebecca Gitlin provided an update on the training for letter writing for Trans, Non-Binary and gender expansive individuals who need affirming care. She shared that Aiden Olson Kennedy provided training on writing the letters through the informed consent model. She

asked if anyone has been trained in writing letters, to please attend the weekly consultation meetings. This will help create a space to talk through issues and programmatic concerns, or anything particular to go in the letters.

- Dr. Gitlin updated the subcommittee that an email was sent out regarding an online platform for LGBTQIA2-S trainings that is being developed through UCLA
- Dr. Gitlin shared the trainings will be accessible for all staff through DMH and the directly operated programs and contracted agencies. She asked members to look at the list of trainings in the email she sent out, choose a training they want to provide, and send it to her. She will meet with UCLA and discuss if there is any funding or compensation that is available, in the past there was not.

Accountability Session: Kelly Wilkerson shared that at the end of the meetings, she sends out an email with follow-ups. Kelly asked for members to email her if they have not been added to the email roster.

General Announcements/Questions: Bill Sive suggested the document that we use for voting include the members email, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and/or LinkedIn, that would help those who want to connect outside of the group

Audio/Video Recording of Meeting: http://lacountymediahost.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?clip_id=8664

Upcoming Meetings:

All meetings are 2-4pm. Please note new login information below for 2021:

- 1/7/21
- 2/4/21
- 3/4/21
- 4/1/21
- 5/6/21
- 6/3/21

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