

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Strategic Communications Division
LGBTQIA2-S
UsCC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Thursday January 7, 2021
2-4 pm

Welcome/Introductions

Present: Addison Rose Vincent, Alexis Glenn, Ana Bernal, Bianca Gallegos, Bill Sive, Bobby Dillard, Claire Kobren, Crystal Bender, Cynthia Ruffin, David Argueta, Edgar Mariscal, Gerald Garth, Greg Wilson, Gustavo Velez, Hector Ramirez, JavonTae Wilson, Jake Rostovsky, James McMahon, Jamie Estrada, Jeffrey Fuentes, Jeffrey King, Kathryn Aguenza, Merry Meyers, Mikey Fields, Nicole Kristal, Rebecca Gitlin, Renato Lira, Sharon Chapman, Victor Hugo, Victor Marroquin

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

Subcommittee Members

Getting To Know You – Victor Hugo is from East Hollywood/Koreatown, he recently moved back to Los Angeles. Victor lived in the Inland Empire for the last 5 years. Victor shared it was amazing, getting to know communities and working in rural areas. Victor shared he was the first in his family to pass a 6th grade education level. Victor shared he receives resilience from his parents and family. Victor is currently a Community Organizer.

November 2020 Meeting Minutes – Reviewed & Approved

Capacity Building Projects – Update

- Kelly Wilkerson shared the SOWs (Statements of Work) have been finalized and submitted to Procurement. Next steps are that the projects will be sent out for solicitation by ISD (Internal Services Department), Kelly will inform the members when the projects go out for solicitation. When the bidding process is complete, and the project has been awarded, the group will discuss the next steps. The funding for these projects is for the current fiscal year (FY20-21). In total, there were four SOWs submitted out of the 10 proposals that were shared.

Group Norms – Update

- Greg Wilson reviewed the Draft copy of the Group Norms document with the members. The Mission Statement and Co-Chair Guidelines were discussed with the members for final approval of the document. Greg Wilson asked for feedback, thoughts and comments.
- The Group Norms will be added to the monthly agendas after the Code of Conduct.

- Alexis Glenn suggested for grievance purposes, to list the Liaisons and Co-Chair contact information at the end of the document. Kelly to add.

Competency Training Committee – Nicole Kristal

- Nicole Kristal shared that the curriculum for the "Meeting the Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) People" training had been completed, but that after review, she identified some problem areas.
- Nicole shared that, according to her contacts at UCLA, the curriculum had been finalized and she had been told that they could not make any revisions.
- Nicole raised questions about how UCLA was chosen, and if they were partnering with Fenway on this specific training.
- Nicole stated the "Q" word is being incorrectly used in the curriculum, as well using sexual orientation in part with behavior. There is very little mention of sexual orientation throughout.
- Bill Sive shared his experiences, and that he faced similar issue with the State of California Master Plan on Aging.
- Jeffrey King suggested meeting with DMH leadership to discuss modifications and/or revisions to this curriculum before moving forward.
- Merry agreed that these concerns needs to be addressed, also recommended inclusion of the two-spirit community.
- Nicole requested that any interested subcommittee members should let her know if they would like to join an ad hoc committee to further discuss their concerns. Cynthia Ruffin, Merry Meyers, and Jeffrey King volunteered during the meeting.
- Kelly to follow up with Rebecca Gitlin and Pinki Mehta as well.

Community Check-In

- Jeffrey King asked for an update on the UsCC Leadership structure within DMH. Kelly shared that Pinki Mehta is the Stakeholder Lead at this time, she is the person overseeing support to the UsCCs and the SALTS. Kelly shared that she will keep everyone updated as new information is provided.
- Bill Sive shared if anyone is working with older adults, please be a little more compassionate and empathetic towards them and check in on them right now.
- Renato Lira shared that he contracted COVID-19, which was a scary experience. He is concerned about how to provide more services to the LGBTQ community and shared his organization will be doing testing and providing the vaccine, a taskforce is working with the LGBTQ community.
- Nicole Kristal shared regarding groups providing virtual support for people at home who are isolated.
- Hector Ramirez raised concerns about social disparities and racial impact, and homelessness in the community.
- Victor Hugo shared that homelessness needs to be addressed.
- Bianca Gallegos shared the Promotores can create a team of five individuals to outreach to the homeless community in West Hollywood.
- Addison Rose Vincent raised concerns about the Trans and Non-Binary communities not being able to access their hormone treatment/therapy due to COVID.
- Jeffrey King suggested the items discussed be placed on future agendas and discussions are arranged surrounding each topic.

- Bill Sive raised concerns about EMS transporting individuals, they have been told not to transport someone who is not going to make it. He will send out information to the subcommittee to read regarding prioritization of care.
- Merry suggested a resource manual/compiled list of services be developed.
- Greg Wilson agreed with the idea of adding items to the agenda.
- Jeffrey King asked if the group can vote on what topics will be added to the upcoming agendas.
- Potential agenda items: Homelessness during COVID, LGBTQIA2-S elder isolation during COVID, impact of COVID in the African American LGBTQIA2-S population, medical rationing and its impact on the LGBTQIA2-S community, impact of COVID in the trans population, impact of COVID in the Latino LGBTQIA2-S population, needs of LGBTQIA2-S youth in foster care
- Kelly to send out a Survey Monkey to voting members so these agenda items can be ranked based on priority.
- Hector Ramirez reminded the group We Rise is approaching, and recommended the UsCCs be a part of the Virtual event in May for Mental Health Month.

DMH Updates

Subcommittee asked for an update regarding the Mental Health Promoter Expansion Program. Kelly to ask Dr. Partida to attend the February meeting to give an update to everyone.

Meeting Recording: [01072021 LGBTQIA2-S UsCC Subcommittee Meeting - Jan 8th, 2021 \(granicus.com\)](https://www.granicus.com/01072021%20LGBTQIA2-S%20UsCC%20Subcommittee%20Meeting%20-%20Jan%208th,%202021)

Next meeting: 2/4/21, 2-4pm

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