

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health  
Strategic Communications Division  
Black & African Heritage UsCC Subcommittee  
Meeting Minutes  
November 18, 2020 2:00pm

Welcome/Introductions

Present: Romalis Taylor, Nakeya Fields, Dr. Sandra Chang, Desiree Deshay, Keacha Stewart, Pharoah, Arlene Santos, Reba Stevens, Kanashe Tyree, Sir Bailey, Wendy Cabil, Kelly Wilkerson

Cultural Competency Plan Data - Dr. Sandra Chang provided information regarding data for the Los Angeles County Population by Race and Ethnicity. Dr. Chang shared there is tremendous diversity amongst groups. Dr. Sandra explained the needs assessments for each service area and age groups. The data shared was provided for the African American consumers served in outpatient programs, by gender & sexual orientation.

Dr. Chang presented data related to the African American Population regarding needs assessments and outpatient programs by age groups and service areas. Dr. Chang shared this data can be applied when selecting capacity building projects that will target each community.

Dr. Chang stated some data shows that some service areas have very high percentage of declining to answer the question regarding sexual orientation. Dr. Chang stated there is a need for more outreach and capacity building for the community.

Romalis Taylor expressed concerns regarding the data not identifying African American brothers and sisters as it related to their services and needs within DMH.

MHSA Presentation & Discussion – Pinki Mehta discussed the disparities data with the group, related to medical enrolled populations. Pinki shared that there is stigma and a lack of knowledge and consumers are reluctant to get services. Pinki stated there needs to be more support from the community members at the B&A Heritage meetings.

Nakeya Fields shared that they were not informed of the presentation today, they were not aware of the topic or data being presented.

Romalis Taylor stated the Department needs to address the immediate needs of the community

Romalis Taylor shared the community is struggling with media, and internet connections to set in a virtual environment

Romalis Taylor stated the recommendations was brought forward in the past, he is still awaiting an answer from administration.

Pharoah shared that he doesn't feel their voice is being heard, the black community is not feeling welcomed at the table.

Nakeya Fields shared they are willing as co-chairs to strategize and communicate better and work with organizations that attended past meetings

## DMH Update

### Capacity Building Projects- Desiree Deshay

Desiree Deshay provided an update to the group on the current projects below, that were awarded prior to covid. The statement of work has been completed, they have been forwarded for review, then the bidding process begins. Desiree shared that this is the time to bring forward new capacity building project ideas.

Wendy Cabil asked for documents or brochures regarding capacity building projects and the process, Desiree Deshay stated she will provide the documentation regarding the guidelines and vendor information for the stakeholders. Kelly Wilkerson will share some documents as well and send out to the group within the week.

Empowering the Black & African American family in well conversation series for Service Area 3

Black and African American Village Elders Mental Health Project.

### DSW Covid 19

Discussion regarding community needs with Covid.19

Romalis Taylor suggested meeting with Pinki to discuss what the department want to do regarding the MHSA money and how do they want to collaborate and work with the black community, what funding will they support, and what will they be willing to do during this covid crisis.

Nakeya Fields shared she submitted information to the MH commission in the past, meeting minutes are documented monthly and the needs of the community have been shared with the department. Nakeya suggested DMH looking into the needs of the community.

Pinki Mehta shared she would look into why the Department has not responded to the requests.

### Promotors Update

Desiree Deshay shared the recent information regarding the promotors program. Information was given to Dr. Partida and his team and Desi stated they are awaiting a response. An Update will be provided once it's received.

Nakeya Fields shared they are supporting the community with recruiting, some have applied and provided feedback that some of the applicants due to the application information that states you have to speak spanish or the position is bilingual has caused some problems for the community members.

Dr. Partida has been made aware of the problem with the applicants who are having issues.

Cleo Ray shared what happens to the money if you cant find 50 blacks as health promotors in the community, Cleo shared please be consistent with the date and times of the B&A Heritage meetings.

Black & African Heritage Task Force Update In support Dr. Partida and Nakeya Fields will host a Virtual Event – Recruiting Black Health Promotors

Nakeya shared there will be a community event for the MH Taskforce and the Black Health Promotors program November 24, 2020

Nakeya shared they are helping the community apply for the position

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, America Job Center is doing a recruitment fair for the Black Health Promotors position and assist with applying for the position.

Nakeya shared a flyer will be submitted , If you want to be part of the job recruitment fair email nakeya at [hello@blackmentalhealth.net](mailto:hello@blackmentalhealth.net)

Nakeya shared there will be a Food and Toy drive for Christmas, we are trying to support black families this Christmas, partnering with black mommas and babies for this event.

Cleo Ray shared what happens to the money if you cant find 50 blacks as health promotors in the community

Cleo shared that DMH need to be consistent with the date and times of the B&A Heritage meetings.

Public Comments

Sandra Chang shared there will be an update at the Leadership meeting today, regarding the Promotors program. The position is available to the community and the latest update will be provided by Dr. Partida. Dr. Sandra Chang shared the CCC is in support for the UsCCs.

December 12, 2020 there will be a black art celebration to do community healing during the holidays. Nakeya shared they will celebrate as a community, [blackmentalhealth.net/theforce](https://blackmentalhealth.net/theforce) is where you sign up to become a member and join the force.

MH Taskforce Vice Chair is Marilyn Huffhibbler, she can be reached at [outreach@blackmentalhealth.net](mailto:outreach@blackmentalhealth.net), Pharoah Mitchell Advocacy Vice Chair can be contacted at [advocacy@blackmentalhealth.net](mailto:advocacy@blackmentalhealth.net) , The Branding and Marketing team has a Vice Chair, Rachel Chambers who is the CEO of painted brain and she can be contacted at [branding@blackmentalhealth.net](mailto:branding@blackmentalhealth.net)

#### Announcements

Cleo Ray thanked the Black MH Taskforce for focusing on the community, the children and the homeless community.

#### Future Meetings:

2/18/21

3/18/21

4/15/21

5/20/21

6/17/21