

Los Angeles County Department of Mental  
Health  
Strategic Communications Division  
API Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
Monday  
June 1, 2020 2:00pm

Welcome/Introductions

Present: Leo Lishi Huang, Phaly Sam, Michelle Wong, Patricia Oh, Richer San, Ricky, Dr. Sheila Wu, Beatrice, Pam Inaba, Rocco Chen, Payal Sawney, Emily

DMH Admin: Dr. Luis Guzman, Keacha Stewart

Covid-19 Check-In

- Leo Lishi Huang opened up a discussion with the subcommittee members asking everyone to share their stories and experiences since the pandemic began.
- Dr. Wu updated the subcommittee with the current issues and concerns in the clinic, group sessions has increased from 2 sessions to 4 a month. They have youth sessions every week, and individual therapy sessions as well as reaching out to the community.
- Dr. Wu asked for support and guidance from mentors and seniors to assist/help with the contracts to sustain and continue their work.
- There has been a rise in loneliness and anxiety, Youth are engaging in productive discussions toward positive thinking
- Recently released a PSA on Mental Health, Will target recent issues pertaining to the violence against African Americans
- Leo Lishi Huang stated that the Union Rescue Mission was closed due to 56 positive Covid cases.
- Dr. Luis Guzman asked for feedback about a link he shared about a panel discussion, regarding COVID in the Asian American Pacific Islander Community. Dr. Rocco Cheng shared the panel discussion was helpful to him and his colleagues.
- The Older adults in the Cambodian Project are dealing with fear and a lack of understanding regarding COVID-19.
- Dr. Rocco Cheng stated the community is traumatized with over exposure of information, we need to support the community with accurate information and encourage them to do self-care.
- Michelle Wong shared that the Chinese American Community was able to organize and get more PPE into the hospitals and clinics.
- Michelle Wong shared of a protest in Chinatown, there is a lot of needs in that community.
- Michelle Wong is interested in working with grass-root organizations to prevent emotional chaos amongst the community members.
- Richer San shared that 16 business was looted during the protests in Long Beach, Volunteers joined the mayor and help clean up.

- Leo Lishi Huang suggested for DMH to provide translation services for the API community, Dr. Guzman will follow up with the subcommittee regarding this issue.
- Dr. Guzman will look into future support surrounding translation and interpretation on a consistent basis.
- Leo Lishi Huang suggested DMH to develop a list of agencies who are open during covid to provide mental health services to the API community.
- Provide a list of grants and opportunities for funding during covid.

#### Capacity Building Projects Update:

Supporting Through Recovery, Dr. Rocco Cheng stated they are doing the focus group analysis and the project is moving forward. Rocco is still awaiting payment from DMH for his project. He is expecting a payment by tomorrow. Dr. Guzman explained that there were some issues with the department that issues the payments, but he will monitor future projects to make sure this does not happen again.

Sharing Tea, Sharing Hope, Michelle Wong provided an update about her project, she is currently unable to do any work remotely due to COVID-19. The events have been cancelled; she is looking into training for the Korean/Khmer speaking which is also on hold. She explained her events are geared towards the public. She is looking into creating a safe space outdoors during the summer.

#### Capacity Building Projects for FY 2020/2021

- Leo Lishi Huang spoke of a documentary of Asian pacific islander struggling with mental health
- LGBTQ has project ideas for the Asian Culture:
- The Homeless Outreach Project is currently on hold due to COVID-19. Some committee members suggested a new project which is being introduced by Producer Beatrice. Asian Americans are educated on how individuals have struggled and succeeded throughout situations during a mental health crisis. Individuals were interviewed and screened and shared their stories. There were 4 people interviewed as well as mental health professionals and researchers. She shared that she is about 50% complete with the filming of the documentary. Beatrice can be contacted via email @ [thingsineversaid2019@gmail.com](mailto:thingsineversaid2019@gmail.com) Beatrice asked the members to share their website [www.thingsineversaid.org](http://www.thingsineversaid.org).
- Tracy from APA Equality-LA shared their current project status with the members, they are working with mental health issues surrounding COVID-19, social isolation is increasing, depression and anxiety. Members have been attending the protests, they have been providing ways to support them about safety and security. Online support for social and emotional groups, social events, game nights, open mic is available for the members.

Please listen to the Meeting Audio by clicking here:

OR

Upcoming Meetings:

**7/27/20**, 2-4pm, Skype Teleconference

**8/24/20**, 2-4pm, Skype Teleconference

**9/28/20**, 2-4pm, Skype Teleconference

[Join Skype Meeting](#) OR Join by phone: 866-390-1828, Conference ID: 7352331

