

Los Angeles County Department of Mental
Health

Administrative Operations
API Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2020 2:00pm – 4pm

Present: Mariko Kahn, Richer San, Dr. Rocco Cheng, Al Choi, , Dr. Ann Marie Yamada, Revina, Payal Sawhney, Bertha Bereman, Benjamin Chan, Christina Rosel, Erwin Guterrez, Kavisha Prajapa, Jane Park, Melissa Acoba, Heidi, Penny Chen, Dr. Sheila Wu, Daisy Torres, Lucas Yepez, Vicky Yue Michelle Wong, Kayshon Lorreau, Anna, Patricia Oh, Pastor Kim, Anchu Biswas,

DMH Admin: Dr. Luis Guzman, John Flynn, Dr. Sandra Chang, Keacha Stewart

Welcome & Introductions

- Subcommittee Members, Housekeeping, Attendance, Co-Chairs

Review of Meeting Minutes – Approved with minor corrections page 1 and 2

Current and Emerging Needs of API community

- Dr. Guzman asked the members to provide the current needs of the API community.
- Mariko Kahn shared the Samoan community has a high number of Covid deaths.
- Payal shared there are family members who cannot go back home, some are facing legal issues

Creation of Community Health Worker Program for the API Community

Dr. Luis Guzman provided an update to the subcommittee regarding the expansion of the Promotors program into other communities

- The Department has a deadline to recruit and submit all the requirements by December 30th, 2020.
- All applicants need to submit the requirements by the deadline.
- The Department is moving quickly to create the training modules for the API community.
- Dr. Luis Guzman informed the subcommittee to provide their ideas and needs of the API community to be added to the curriculum
- Dr. Luis Guzman shared the Department wants the modules to be tailored to the API community
- Payal suggested adding to the training module, a section for cultural humility and cultural sensitivity
- There will be a total of 150 community health workers that will be hired for the project. 50 positions will be assigned to the API community
- Dr. Guzman asked the subcommittee, to include the communities that the API community wants to be part of this effort.
- Dr. Guzman shared that this was a motion by the board of supervisors, the 150 employees will be hired through DMH
- Mariko suggested looking into a priorities list that was created for the API community
- Dr. Guzman stated the technology, training, computers, hot spots, and hiring the workers, will be funded with the cares act money.

- Dr. Guzman shared the Department is focusing on looking into this program as long term
- DMH is searching for an ongoing stream of revenue to identify long term funding
- MHSA funding will be used after the project ends to fund the health care workers
- The Department is looking into moving the current vendors to actual employers of DMH
- Dr. Sheila Wu stated that the communities listed by priority groups were Korean, Chinese and Filipino, Cambodian and South East Asian
- Dr. Guzman will send out the information on how to register as a vendor
- Revina suggested the community health workers be trained on domestic violence awareness and help the community link to resources
- Mariko is concerned why is DMH hiring the community health workers instead of the CBO's
- Mariko stated the CBO's will not receive funding if DMH is hiring the health workers
- Dr. Partida explained this is a parallel effort and a board motion to expand the Promotors program to the underserved cultural communities
- DMH will need the community to help with identifying potential leaders and promoters in the community
- Dr. Guzman will send out emails when it is time to discuss the curriculum
- Dr. Sandra Chang invited the API members to attend the planning meetings to provide their input for the community health workers program

COVID during winter; racism, and economic needs

- Mariko Kahn shared that the Samoan community has a high number of COVID-19 deaths
- Mariko stated all pacific islanders should also be discussed COVID-19 and post COVID-19
- Payal shared there are families and parents who travelled before COVID-19 cannot go back home for many reasons, anxiety and like legal issues
- Payal shared the underrepresented communities in the south Asian is not at the table, they have lost their jobs, they are dealing with unrest
- Payal mentioned the rate of divorce is increasing in the south east Asian community because of job loss and there is suffering and unrest
- The Nepali Community isn't at the table, Payal stated its because a lack of awareness and effort, in process of training 5 nurses in November
- Mariko stated she would share a report from APCON, on intergenerational domestic violence surrounding four API communities.
- Mariko shared there has been an increase in domestic violence since COVID-19 19 began
- Dr. Luis Guzman shared with the committee he would invite the domestic violence council to the next meeting to do a presentation
- Joana Lozano & Mariko took a motion for the council to visit the subcommittee to discuss domestic violence with the members
- Mariko suggested to invite Debra Suss group to be part of the discussion, since they have worked with the API community for decades
- Payal shared their organizations would like the opportunity to talk about the small efforts they are trying to make with the community
- Dr. Guzman shared it would be great for the CBO's, DMH and DPH to work together to share the efforts and discuss the challenges
- Dr, Guzman stated both organizations would be invited to attend the next month's meeting.
- Dr. Guzman shared with the members if any other issues or needs arise regarding Covid to please send him an email.
- Michelle Wong is concerned about the housing needs of the community, and how it affects the mental health when you are losing your home
- Michelle Wong is concerned that people don't know their rights, people should know how to be proactive when protecting their rights
- Michelle Wong would like a project that address addiction and how to cope during the pandemic without depending on substance abuse
- Michelle is concerned about material not being available in other languages, DMH should make materials available in different languages
- Dr. Sandra Chang shared the Speakers Bureau represents different cultural languages in the community is available for everyone to dispose

- Dr. Sandra Chang shared there are other resources available through a library that informs the clinicians who work directly with the community.
- Dr. Sandra Chang the DMH website has a specific page on community organization, she will share with Dr. Guzman to pass on to the group
- Dr. Guzman shared he has copies of the Tenant's rights in other languages and he will also share with the group
- Payal shared the communities need help with Divorce resources, visa holders are in need of help and financial resources, restraining orders.

Capacity Building Projects

Amplifying Voices in the South Asian Community-Kavisha

- Kavisha provided a brief summary of her project. This project will portray the true challenges of cultural acculturation, and the immigrant journey ranging throughout generations. Interviews and conversations will be part of the process and immigrants stories and experiences will be shared.

The objective is to provide a platform and outlet for families to heal and connect with each other throughout their generations.

- Kavisha shared, after the questions and going through the process, they will understand the mental health and physical health realities of different South Asian immigrants including holistic health and what coping mechanisms they rely on. The Cultural outcome is to amplify the voices of South Asians.
- Payal shared that this project will be effective and will help the community heal, everyone is dealing with pain due to Covid
- Payal shared the projects and their overview, they are targeting enhancing community health. One project was geared towards youth towards intergenerational work and healing. South Asian youth are a mixture of first and second generations. They have issues like bullying, and a lack of self-confidence and confusion about their identities.
- The Digital Education project, the youth will deal with the seniors of the community they will exchange emotions, thoughts and feelings and language mannerism. There will be bonding and an understanding, a research and innovation lab is also part of the project.
- PSA videos will be produced to gear towards reducing the stigma of mental health and community education and awareness of teen dating violence.
- Payal shared they will launch a web series during the post covid period, and how to deal and adjust to the new altered lifestyle. It will be done in several languages and it will be televised through ethnic channels.
- Dr. Guzman shared he will send out the form for any new Capacity Building project to consider and vote for the next upcoming projects.

- Dr. Guzman will submit all the suggestions for the past capacity building projects from the last round that was not selected. The group can think about it or vote for the next round. Anyone who has a new project idea can also present it at the next meeting.
- Benjamin shared the Chinese community needs to understand the mental health service and treatment, he has an idea to do a capacity building project.

Announcements/Updates:

Dr. Sandra Chang shared the CAF was reinstated. Pinki Mehta sent out an email with the form and instructions on how to complete the packet. The email will be shared with the subcommittee to get their paperwork submitted. The orientation on how the program works and how it has improved.

The CAF is a small stipend of \$25 for the community members who come and participate and who join in discussion in the community meetings.

Leadership Meeting:

The Code of Conduct was discussed at the Leadership meeting, what it should include and what is helpful. Dr. Guzman will work with the Co-Chairs to discuss it at the next month meeting to make any suggestion changes to it.

Dr. Chang shared a brief update about the CCC meeting on training that can be offered to DMH employees. DMH asked that each subcommittee submit their training ideas for DMH workforce to be trained on. Please submit your ideas to Dr. Chang no later than 10/30/2020

Upcoming Meetings:

11/24/20, 2-4pm