

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
Strategic Communications Division
American Indian / Alaska Native (AI/AN) UsCC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
 March 3, 2021
 2:00PM – 4:00PM via Teleconference and Microsoft TEAMS

Present: April Skinas, Bernice Mascher, Bridget Garcia Vera, Charlotte Lujan, Farrah Ferris, Genevieve, Hector Ramirez, Monique Castro, Monique Smith, Nikki Crow, Robyn Gomez, Rosario Ribleza, Roque Bucton, Shannon Rivers, Sunnie Whipple and Sylvia Youngblood

DMH Admin: Kelly Wilkerson, Dr. Sandra Chang, Pinki Mehta, and Connie Acosta Castaneda

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
Welcome, Prayer & Introductions	Roque Bucton lead the meeting with prayer. Members were asked to introduce themselves.
Meeting Minutes – Review	February 3, 2021 minutes were reviewed and approved by Monique Smith and seconded by Hector Ramirez.
Access For All UsCC Subcommittee - Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roque Bucton is an active member and Co-Chair for the Access for All subcommittee that advocates for; Sensory and hearing disabilities, visual and intersectional impairment (combination of different disabilities). Roque shared with the group two projects the Access for All subcommittee has completed and shared some of what the subcommittee has been involved with. • Wayfinder Family Services conducted two projects for the Access for All subcommittee. 1. Peer Mentor Leadership Program, this program was to develop leaders in various disability communities. 2. Clinician Training on accommodations for people with disabilities. Clinicians would know best practices and appropriate ways of interacting with people with disabilities. (These two projects have been completed). • The Access for All subcommittee requested to have these two projects be published so they could start developing their own datasets; which studies our community by looking at the demographics, and the numbers. • The Access for All subcommittee will be having a Needs Assessment for the deaf community, visually impaired and the mobility impaired. They are also working on an interpersonal domestic violence disabilities task force to help with the serious issues in the disability community, to help best serve the people under these difficult conditions at this time. • The Access for All subcommittee is focused on ASL American Sign Language, advocacy for the deaf community. Five Acres was the only provider of direct services. Five Acres contract was not renewed by DMH. There will be no direct services for the deaf community with clinicians that can sign American Sign Language. • Access for All subcommittee scheduled to present at the Commission on Disabilities March meeting on the issue because it is a major service gap.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access for All Co-Chairs are doing outreach to the UsCC subcommittees to see if there are any needs for the disabled people within their communities and to assist with direct services, best practices and different kinds of programs that are available for the disabled community. Roque will be available by request to do an Assist Technology presentation or workshop.
Community Check-In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hector Ramirez shared with the group on March 16, 2021 the Department of Mental Health employees and consumers will be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. • Farrah Ferris shared, UAll Prevention and Aftercare along with UAll Seven Generations will be having their annual six-week series Woman Empowerment Group with yoga classes with a Native instructor. Group discussions on how to empower women, parenting classes, toddler time, parent café with traditional teas, also financial budget workshops. • Charlotte Lujan shared with the group, AICC and Indigenous Circle of Wellness will collaborate in the month of May for Mental Health month with daily events and entertainment, like Native American dancing. There will be presenters for American Indian youth on teen violence, suicide, anxiety, PTSD, trauma, self-care and spirituality. • Sunnie Whipple shared with the group that Bernice Mascher and himself have been attending a Native American Lakota language class in South Dakota. There has been a big loss of Elders. There is a big push to learn the Lakota language, culture and the spirituality.
DMH Updates/General Announcements/ Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kelly Wilkerson shared with the group that CDC could not present at today's meeting in regards to the data on COVID-19 and the American Indian and Alaska Native communities. They are rescheduled to present at the April 7, 2021 meeting. • Kelly also shared that the Community Mental Health Needs Assessment that was developed by this subcommittee, went out for solicitation and now is closed. It was awarded to Monique Castro and her team at Indigenous Circle of Wellness. • The American Indian Film Institute is accepting submissions at this time. Kelly Wilkerson asked for help in suggesting a PSA that has been created by this subcommittee, and would like to submit for the Film Festival. • Pinki Mehta discussed peer voices and what the State will decide to do with Peer Certification. In April they will be opening up a public comment period, for peers and those with lived experience. She encourages the subcommittee to give feedback to the State, so that when it comes to Los Angeles County, we will be ready to implement the Peer Certification program. • Sunnie Whipple shared with the group, there will be an CLT meeting on Friday March 5, 2021 from 10am – 2pm. • Roque Bucton gave his experience regarding accessibility attending a Measure J ZOOM meeting. Roque explained the difficulties people with hearing and visual disabilities have while attending a virtual meeting with a large attendance count. The application that Roque uses notifies him of every notification, making it impossible to comprehend what is going on in the meeting. He is working on a way to turn off the notifications. • Robyn Gomez shared Pikuu has a wellness hour on Facebook Live, providing COVID-19 education, mental health grief and loss on March 10, 2021. Monique Castro will be attending and will be answering questions live. ➤ Kelly Wilkerson will send out all links via email.

Closing Prayer	Charlotte Lujan ended the meeting with Prayer.
Audio Recording	All meeting audio recordings are available on the DMH website: https://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mhsa/uscc/american-indian-alaska-native-ai-an-uscc/american-indian-alaska-native-ai-an-uscc-meeting-minutes/
Next Meetings:	<u>Next Meetings (first Wednesday of the month, all meetings 2-4pm):</u> 4/7/21, 5/5/21, 6/2/21, 7/7/21, 8/4/21 New login information for 2021: Join Microsoft Teams Meeting ; 323-776-6996, Conference ID: 806 867 419#