

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
Strategic Communications Division
American Indian / Alaska Native (AI/AN) UsCC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
 April 7, 2021
 2:00PM – 4:00PM via Teleconference and Microsoft TEAMS

Present: Shannon Rivers, Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood, April Skinas, Bernice Mascher, Bridget Garcia Vera, Carrie Johnson, Elena Nourrie, Genevieve Clavreul, Hector Ramirez, Mark Parra, Monique Smith, Nikki Crow, Robyn Gomez, Sunnie Whipple, Gabriel Pimentel, and Walter Ahhaitty

Presenter: Delight Satter (CDC)

DMH Admin: Kelly Wilkerson and Connie Acosta Castaneda

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
Welcome, Prayer & Introductions	Shannon Rivers lead the meeting with prayer. Members were asked to introduce themselves.
Meeting Minutes – Review	March 3, 2021 minutes were reviewed and approved by Sunnie Whipple and seconded by Walter Ahhaitty.
COVID-19 and Vaccinations amongst Native Americans – Presentation & Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delight E. Satter, from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Senior Health Scientist for Office of Tribal Affairs and Strategic Alliances in the CDC Center for State, Tribal, local and territorial support, gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding COVID-19 and Vaccinations amongst Native Americans. • Delight provides counsel on issues related to complex tribal research, science and program integration assignments that reflect the priorities, policies, interest and initiatives of the agency. • Delight is also a member of the community Advisory Committee at the University of Arizona, Native-American Research and Training Center and is a self-described Elder in training. • Delight provided general information related to COVID-19 and CDC’s role. The CDC recognizes their special commitment and unique relationship with Indian Tribes. They are committed to fulfilling the critical role in promoting the health and safety of Indian Tribes by honoring the sovereignty of Indian tribal self-governance and continue to work on a government-to-government basis. • The CDC’s mission is to provide and serve all people globally 24 hours, 7 days a week. The Otasa Office serves as the principle adviser for CDC and for tribes. The CDC provides people with resources across the Federal Government, with help from contacts and other partners and federal agencies. • Tribal communities and emergency response in tribal communities are of a heightened concern. Native people have concerns around anything infectious, which is related to their historic experiences with infectious disease. <p>Feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunnie Whipple inquired whether she thought the COVID-19 vaccination was going to be mandatory.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delight shared that her personal view was that it would not become mandatory, that because we have to protect overall public health and there are foundational laws in this country to protect public health, there may be some limitations. If someone is unable to take the vaccination for personal reasons, they can still live a happy, healthy life, after the pandemic is declared resolved. • Sunnie inquired regarding what kind of resources are being put in place now. • Delight stated that the CDC has an Emergency Operations Center and a task force for Tribal support. There are 30 people managing incoming requests for information, and providing support. • Sunnie asked if the CDC is collaborating with different tribal leaders that are talking about this and what is going to be done when the next pandemic hits. • Delight shared that, yes the CDC is collaborating with Indian Health Services as well as Health and Human Services, and conducts about five meetings/week as well as a tribal leadership meeting. A tribe can ask for a Deployment Team to come out and support whatever it is they need, or they can go with a Virtual Team. • Sunnie asked what has been learned, and what sort of precautions are we going to put in place? • Delight stated that the CDC and other Federal Agencies support Tribes and Urban Indian organizations, they are working on an Emergency Response plan that communities can adapt to as it is helpful to have a manual. The CDC is working on ways to update their Public Health Emergency Response plans. • Hector Ramirez recommends the CDC create a priority list for people with underlining medical conditions. • Shannon Rivers thanked Mrs. Satter for sharing the article “Bringing Light into Darkness”.
DMH Updates / General Announcements / Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kelly Wilkerson shared with the group that it is time to start brainstorming Capacity Building Projects for the next fiscal year. Kelly will send out details via email to the subcommittee. • April Skinas shared with the group that the Johnson and Johnson vaccine is now available. • We encourage you to sign up for Health and Wellness Social Media Resources on the Public Health web page. • CDC information: www.cdc.gov/covid-19
Closing Prayer	Monique Smith 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> 5/5, 6/2, 7/7, 8/4, 9/1 Join Microsoft Teams Meeting ; 323-776-6996, Conference ID: 806 867 419#