

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Strategic Communications Division
LGBTQIA2-S UsCC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Thursday May 6th, 2021 2-4 pm

Welcome & Introductions: Nicole Kristal, Greg Wilson, Addison Rose Vincent, Alexis Glenn, Ana Bernal, Bill Sive, Breyon Clemmons, Crystal Bender, Cynthia Ruffin, Diego Echaveste-Avila, Edgar Mariscal, Erwin Gutierrez, Gabrielle Villa, Gia Olaes, Gustavo Velez, Jacob Rostovsky, JavonTae Wilson, Jeffrey King, Kathryn Aguenza, Live · Xóchi Salas, Merry Meyers, Oscar Vasquez, Rebecca Gitlin, Sharon Chapman
DMH Admin: Keacha Stewart, Luis Guzman, Pinki Mehta,
Guest Speaker: LyNetta Shonibare, LACDMH Quality Improvement

Getting To Know You: Breyon Clemmons shared she is a Mental Health Clinician and specializes in TF-CBT and has been working for over 10 years with the youth population. Breyon enjoys working with TAY youth ages 16-24. Breyon works closely with the LGBTQIA2-S community. She is the mommy of 2 little girls, and enjoys hiking and travelling.

Review of April 2021 Meeting Minutes
Meeting Minutes approved with corrections by Bill Sive and seconded by Erwin Gutierrez.

SOGI Data in Consumer Perception Surveys – LyNetta Shonibare, Supervising Psychologist, Quality Improvement

- LyNetta Shonibare discussed the consumer perception surveys with the group and provided an overview. LyNetta and the Quality Improvement Division are requesting input and feedback from the subcommittee in regards to sexual orientation and gender identity questions in the survey.

Feedback from subcommittee:

- Add cis to the front of man/woman (i.e. cis man, cis woman), in order to avoid othering trans identified individuals.
- Is the question, “Sex assigned at birth section” necessary?
- Add two-spirit to the bulleted list outlining various gender identities.
- Add a separate question, “Do you identify as Trans?”
- Remove, “Do You Identify as Transgender?” and instead ask, “Are you Transgender, Non- Binary, Gender Expansive or another gender identity?”
- Consider adding a footnote with definitions to support accurate responses.
- Revise question “What is your current gender identity?” to “What is your gender identity?” The word “current” can feel like a microaggression.
- Remove “Decline to answer” and change it to “Prefer not to state”.

- Add a gender list option to the list.
- For sexual orientation: bisexual/Bi+ instead of just bisexual, heterosexual/straight instead of just heterosexual, ace/asexual spectrum instead of just asexual.

Capacity Building Projects – Proposal Presentations and Brainstorming

Nicole recommended that the subcommittee take a look at the capacity building project proposals that were shared the previous year:

- LGBTQIA2-S mental health awareness and empowerment community theater projects
- API LGBTQ mental health and wellness campaign
- For the Sages project that would provide a safe and supportive environment for black gay men who are 50+ in Los Angeles County
- Peer mental health support network for LGBTQIA2-S peers to be done via Zoom
- Iranian LGBTQ online outreach project
- LGBTQIA2-S storytelling project featuring unhoused people on Skid Row
- Outreach to LGBTQIA2-S community members via The Fight Magazine

Jacob Rostovsky – Proposal Presentation

- Jacob shared he is currently working on the non-binary intersex mental health survey, and in doing that project, he recognized the need for a similar type of survey, specifically for mental health providers.
- The name of this survey is called, The Transgender, Non-Binary, and Intersex, (TGNBI) Mental Health Provider Survey.
- This project aims to measure the competency and knowledge gaps around TGNBI affirmative mental health treatment in providers (AMFT, LMFT, AMSW, LMSW, PhD, PsyD, Case Workers, Paraprofessionals) across Los Angeles County. A consultant will be hired to implement the TGNBI Mental Health Provider Survey and create the measurement tools. The project purpose will be executed via creation of competency and knowledge measurement tools and measured in way of county wide survey.
- California has the highest population, rated at 80% of the nation's registered mental health professionals.
- A consultant will be hired to implement this survey and create the measurement tools.
- Potential outcomes include training programs with the appropriate knowledge and creating an incentive to become affirmatively certified by the County. Cultural outcomes include that this project will impact L.A. County's TGNBI community. The goal for DMH to build an assessment referral and training program.

Addison Rose Vincent – Proposal Presentation

- Addison presented a brief overview of their proposal – Liberation Workshop Series

- This project will work to reduce barriers to mental health services for LGBTQIA2S+ street-based sex workers of color (specifically Black, Brown and Indigenous) ages 18+ during and after COVID-19 by providing artistic outlets for participants to practice ceramics, facilitating discussions around mental health barriers and challenges, and connecting them with LACDMH and relevant resources.
- The idea is to provide a space for them to have a creative outlet that is artistic for them to practice pottery and to facilitate discussions around mental health barrier challenges, as well as to connect them with relevant resources.
- Age range would be 18+, and participants must live in Los Angeles County.
- Potential outcomes would include increases in confidence, resilience, increases in social relationships, linkage to care as well as trust among participants and with local resources.
- Possible partnership with SWOP LA (Sex Workers Outreach Project of Los Angeles).
- The workshops would take place over 4 weeks, once a week, about 2 hours each with a discussion afterwards for about an hour to 2 hours, that would be facilitated by a licensed clinical social worker.

Other recommendations:

- Breyon Clemons spoke briefly about a youth project she is interested in, to provide mental health service and support to keep LGBTQIA2-S youth housed and to receive mental health services, and to address the barriers and challenges they are facing, in particular in the South LA area
- Gia Olaes recommended a project targeting LGBTQIA2-S youth experiencing detention or housing programs during COVID.

DMH Accountability Session

Pinki encouraged the committee to try and participate in May is Mental Health Month

General Announcements

- Nicole Kristal shared that the San Fernando Valley Mental Health Task Force will have a week-long LGBTQ mental health conference coming up May 10th through 14th. They will have an intimate partner violence workshop, and a workshop for survivors. There will be a drag show and comedy night as well.
- Gia Olaes shared May 17th is International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Bi-Phobia.
- Gustavo Velez from The Wall Las Memorias Project shared that funding for the mental health services provided for youth for programs like Tarzana Treatment Center, Penny Lane and The Wall Las Memorias Project that consists of LGBTQ+ peer youth groups, family and caregivers, as well as LGBTQIA2-S Toki trainings for providers all across L.A. County has been discontinued. They are extremely disappointed in this decision, because there is no plan in place to replace the programs. Gustavo asked if anybody wants to write a letter of support or help, let them know.
- Bill Sive shared May is Older Americans Month, and May 16th is LGBTQ Elders Day.
- Long Beach Pride is hosting a virtual pride on May 16th

- The Lavender Effect will be hosting a virtual pride event on May 30th
- Ana Bernal shared there are free episodes on Spotify for the East Side Queer Stories Festival. Every Friday an episode is released, there are 10 episodes. The last episode will be on June 4th.

Meeting Recordings and Minutes can be found at: <https://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mhsa/uscc/lgbtqia2-s-uscc/lgbtqia2-s-uscc-meeting-minutes/>

Upcoming Meetings (first Thursday of the month, all meetings are 2-4pm): 6/3/21, 7/1/21, 8/5/21

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323-776-6996, Conference ID: 542 042 921#