

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

**Present:** Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood, Shannon Rivers, Hector Ramirez, Bernice Mascher, Robyn Gomez, Gabriel Pimentel, April Skinas, Bridget Garcia Vera, Walter Ahhaitty, Genevieve Clavreul, Johana Lozano, Ashley Flores, Charlotte Lujan, Melanie Cain, Dan Dickerson, Iva Maes, Raul Garcia, Yue Hua Xu (Vicky)

**DMH Admin:** Kelly Wilkerson, Connie Acosta Castaneda, Pinki Mehta, Catherine Clay, Kumar Menon

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
<b>Welcome, Prayer &amp; Introductions</b>	Shannon Rivers lead the meeting with prayer. Members were asked to introduce themselves.
<b>June 2021 Minutes</b>	June 2021 minutes were reviewed and approved by Gabriel Pimentel and seconded by Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood.
<b>Hollywood 2.0 Project – Pinki Mehta</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pinki shared that Hollywood 2.0 is a pilot project that emerged out of one of the innovation projects called Trieste.</li> <li>• The Hollywood area was selected for the pilot because of the data showing a concentrated population of unhoused individuals.</li> <li>• This project will focus on individuals with severe mental illness, who are experiencing chronic homelessness, incarceration or hospital overuse.</li> <li>• An array of services will be deployed to this population through optimization of funding including FSP services, outreach, mobile engagement, peer resource center programming, and alternative crisis response.</li> <li>• Pinki asked the subcommittee to think about how this might affect the AI/AN community in the Hollywood area, and provide feedback.</li> <li>• Shannon Rivers inquired from Pinki and other organizations if there was specific data on the number of homeless AI/AN individuals in LA County.</li> <li>• Pinki stated she was not sure of specific data but could explore that with LAHSA.</li> <li>• Melanie Cain and Dan Dickerson did an analysis of the clients at American Indian Counseling Center and determined that approximately 30% were unhoused. They are in the process of publishing their findings and will share with the subcommittee once that happens.</li> <li>• The group discussed the challenges with gathering accurate data as many AI/AN individuals are lumped in with other groups and that data is often missed.</li> <li>• Shannon recommended more rigorous demographic questions when clients first come in, to help identify AI/AN community members early on.</li> <li>• Sylvia also recommended working with the schools to include forms in their intake packets to gather demographic data of students coming in.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hector Ramirez recommended the pilot project also look at two-spirit community members and the broader LGBTQIA+ community.</li> <li>• Pinki shared that this pilot project presents the opportunity to gather data that is needed to increase funding for community-based organizations that are providing services to the AI/AN community.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Capacity Building Projects – Discussion</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kelly to send out a survey to rank these ideas to all voting members.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ideas Discussed:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Media campaign to inform community about UsCC; PSAs, podcasts/social media campaign, radio interviews, etc.; outreach campaign for this UsCC; Interviews – local media agencies, invite to do a piece on the subcommittee, 15-30 minute segments</li> <li>2. Mending the Hoop: Gathering of Nations/Congress – invite surrounding tribes, orgs to come together, talk about data, discussion on a more robust questionnaire to capture data; healing space</li> <li>3. Virtual Storytelling/Talking Circles</li> <li>4. Youth Academy – Teach the youth how to engage with the Elders, spend time with them; athletic workshops for youth, intertribal sports; mental health component</li> <li>5. Social media Pow Wow with a focus on traditional methods of care with a mental health component</li> <li>6. Language forum/tribal gatherings: Traditional methods and language, prayer, spirituality - educational series, build trust, create safe spaces, connections between reservation and urban Indians, normalize mental health (Notes from meeting discussion: Language is vital from a behavioral health aspect, opens up the understanding of history, instills in the child/person that sense of identity - builds purpose and sense of self; Develop network of finding out where our language communities are in LA County; Sean Sherman from symposium - reclaiming our communities as a form of wellness; Language, songs, food - reclaiming these traditions as a way of developing purpose; Connect with youth, elders, parents; specifically language around mental health)</li> <li>7. Educational program (workshops, media, etc.) regarding land acknowledgements and how to be a good ally</li> </ol>
<p><b>SB803 – Kumar Menon &amp; Catherine Clay</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senate Bill 803 was signed into law by the governor last year. It asks counties who opt in to implement a program to train and certify peer support specialists who can then provide individual and group services that are billable to Medi-Cal. California is the 49th state to do this.</li> <li>• L.A. County is definitely going to opt in and do this program because we were one of the major movers of the bill in getting it passed.</li> <li>• Department of Health Services at the state level is right now finalizing the standards that counties have to meet. They have until July 1st, 2022, so our expectation is that the state will ask counties to have in place all these things by July 1 of 2022.</li> <li>• Kumar shared regarding the process to become a peer specialist including training and exams.</li> <li>• Hector Ramirez expressed concerns about the lack of outreach to the AI/AN community regarding this program.</li> <li>• Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood shared feedback regarding the requirements for peers specialists including needing a diploma or GED and four years of behavioral health experience and that eliminating people who could be vital in this work.</li> </ul>

<b>Community Check In</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subcommittee members shared concerns about the recent traumatic events happening in Canada of AI/AN children from boarding schools being found in mass graves.</li> </ul>
<b>Community Announcements &amp; Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Johana shared regarding the ACCESS Leadership Roundtable happening at the end of July.</li> <li>• SCIC will be having a Youth Expo and a Back To School Drive coming up.</li> <li>• UAI has monthly workshops, the event calendar can be found on their website and social media.</li> <li>• Kelly to share the resources via email.</li> </ul>
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Hector Ramirez ended the meeting with Prayer.
<b>Audio Recording</b>	<p><b>All meeting audio recordings are available on the DMH website:</b> <a href="https://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mhsa/uscc/american-indian-alaska-native-ai-an-uscc/american-indian-alaska-native-ai-an-uscc-meeting-minutes/">https://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mhsa/uscc/american-indian-alaska-native-ai-an-uscc/american-indian-alaska-native-ai-an-uscc-meeting-minutes/</a></p>
<b>Next Meetings:</b>	<p><b>Next Meetings (first Wednesday of the month, all meetings 2-4pm):</b> 8/4/21, 9/1/21, 10/5/21, 11/3/21</p> <p>Login information for 2021: <a href="#">Join Microsoft Teams Meeting</a>; 323-776-6996, Conference ID: 806 867 419#</p>