

**Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Strategic Communications Division
LGBTQIA2-S UsCC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Thursday July 1, 2021, 2-4 pm**

Welcome/Introductions

Present: Greg Wilson, Nicole Kristal, Maria Arauco, Bobby Dillard, Mikey Fields, Alexandra Casanova, Danah Kim, Edgar Mariscal, Gabrielle Villa, Gustavo Velez, Hector Ramirez, Katherine Gardner, Kevin Perez, Live Salas, Mary Mojica, Paul Kang, Stacey Dalgleish, Young Yoo, Sharon Chapman, Addison Rose Vincent, Rebecca Gitlin, Bill Sive, Ashley Flores, Anna Hernandez

DMH Admin: Dr. Luis Guzman, Keacha Stewart, Pinki Mehta, Imee Perius

Getting To Know You – Gabrielle shared a little bit about herself, she is an avid dog parent and owns a German shepherd named Zeus who thinks he is a lap dog. Gabrielle shared in her free time she enjoys Tahitian dancing which is what you see at a Luau. Gabrielle has been doing this for the past 10 years.

June 2021 Meeting Minutes – Reviewed & Approved

Hollywood 2.0 Project- Pinki Mehta

- Pinki shared that Hollywood 2.0 is a pilot project that emerged out of one of the innovation projects called Trieste.
- The Hollywood area was selected for the pilot because of the data showing a concentrated population of unhoused individuals.
- This project will focus on individuals with severe mental illness, who are experiencing chronic homelessness, incarceration or hospital overuse.
- 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.
- Pinki asked the subcommittee to think about how this might affect the LGBTQIA2-S community in the Hollywood area, and provide feedback.
- Hector Ramirez suggested the department use other alternatives to communicate with peers using other platforms. Hector suggested the Valley Coalition Organization and the Wall Las Memorias Project is a place where the peers feel safe to comment.
- Nicole Kristal is concerned if the folks reaching out to the unhoused are trained in LGBTQIA2-S competency and if not, she would suggest this type of training. Nicole is concerned about what steps the department will take to make sure that people can trust the folks offering outreach and is there a policy in place.
- Pinki will continue this discussion in August, and will share this feedback with Dr. Sherin.
- Hector recommended while the project is going to be geographically located, that it provides opportunities for all of our LGBTQIA2-S organizations in the county to be able to participate in this project.
- Nicole suggested someone who conducts the outreach be LGBTQIA2-S to be able to talk to folks from the trans community
- Hector stated the time is perfect to identify indigenous organizations that are already in those areas doing the work.

Capacity Building Projects-Open Discussion

- Hector would like to see funding to get L.A. County DMH consumers to the LGBTQIA2-S UsCC meetings. Hector suggested raising awareness about the groups can also be a capacity building project.
- Pinki asked, how did you find out that these Underserved Cultural Community meetings or SALT meetings existed?
- Nicole asked should the group keep doing popularity votes for projects, or be more intentional by making a decision collectively to fund certain communities where there is critical need. Nicole proposed being more intentional and focused on data, rather than having it be an open call for proposals.

- Greg expressed concerns about the elder community and how they have never been funded a capacity building project. Greg recommended bringing the For The Sages Project back to the table.
- Luis shared a document listing all of the previous capacity building projects.
- Nicole suggested to create a survey and have Kelly send it out to the group, where voting members can anonymously vote on whether they want to shift the way they are doing the capacity building projects to a focus on areas of critical need.
- Hector suggested a stakeholder driven proposal should be included as a capacity building project. Hector shared L.A. County DMH consumers can get a reimbursement stipend for participating in these groups and they need to be informed of this.
- Addison suggested educating people on how to become vendors, and how to be bid on projects.
- Greg recommended a report back process for each of those projects that are being funded.

I Prevail – Pinki Mehta

- I Prevail is free to all L.A. County residents, it is an online mental health resource that brings traditional models of talk therapy to an internet connected device or a smartphone.
- Consumers can engage via smartphone or iPad, internet and can connect with people 24/7 that are trained peer specialists. There is a host of support groups on different topics, different subjects. You can sign up for free @ lacounty.iprevail.com.

General Announcements:

- Addison provided an update about the LGBTQIA2-S Youth Innovation Lab. The survey launched last week. They are looking for youth, ages 18 to 24. BIPOC LGBTQIA2-S youth throughout every SPA region in Los Angeles. Addison shared the information in the chat.
- Live shared that We Exist is going to be releasing a new series of peer and allyship support groups, as well as some public toolkits.
- Live shared the Los Angeles LGBTQ Center does offer housing for youth and there are not enough housing resources available for the trans and non-binary youth located in the South Bay and Harbor City. Live asked if anyone knew of any safe and affirming gender diverse housing services.
- Bill sent a shout out to Cynthia Ruffin and COLORS. Bill was invited to speak to COLORS/Antioch University to their therapists and trainees last month on LGBTQ+ older adults. The event was successful and well received. It was a first for the COLORS Program to have LGBTQ+ older adults address the therapists and trainees.
- Greg Wilson shared In The Meantime, The Carl Bean House, hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the reveal of the Los Angeles Black AIDS Monument, which is the first of its kind. The Carl Bean House is located at 2146 West Adams Boulevard. There is a beautiful fountain and benches where you can see the Black AIDS Monument.
- Project Return is hiring, they are looking for peers. If you have any individuals, members, consumers in your life that are looking for a leadership role in their community, please refer them. They are also hiring regional coordinators whose role is to supervise an assigned service area and the peer support groups in that area.

Upcoming Meetings (first Thursday of the month, 2-4pm): 8/5/21, 9/2/21, 10/7/21, 11/4/21

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

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

Meetings recordings can be found at <https://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mhsa/uscc/lgbtqia2-s-uscc/lgbtqia2-s-uscc-meeting-minutes/>