

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS
Latino UsCC SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES**

August 17, 2021
2:00PM – 4:00PM

Attendees: Betty Marín, Betty Mendoza, Bianca Gallegos, Britany Flores, Carmen Perez, Daniela Hernandez, David Serrano, Elsy Molina, Elvia Ortega, Eugenia Cervantes, Gabriela Gonzalez, Gabriela Velasquez, Guadalupe Nolasco Torres, Hector Ramirez, Irma Velasquez, Hector Ramirez, Laura Iñiguez, Leonor Johansen, Maria Arauco, Martha Cota, Martin Almanza, Nancy Bermudez Palacios, Paco Retana, Patricia Veliz-Macal, Vicky Xu

DMH Staff: Dr. Luis Guzman, Pinki Mehta

Interpreter: Angelica, Alex & Lucy Ferraez Rivero

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
Welcome & Introductions – Subcommittee Members	A. Housekeeping, Attendance Each attendee (On Microsoft TEAMS and on phone) introduce himself/herself.
Review of Meeting Minutes	July 20, 2021, meeting minutes have been reviewed and approved by Patricia Veliz-Macal and second by Irma Velasquez .
Latino Mental Health Data Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-chairs discussed the recent release of Census 2020 data and the need to be more intentional about including people from Central and South America. • Hector, on behalf of Latino UsCC, is requesting that LAC DMH allocate mental health funding proportionate to the census of the county (50% is Latino) and corresponding mental health needs. • Bianca requested that LAC DMH workforce and leadership should be reflective of the County population. • Indigenous communities from Latin America are often overlooked/not included in the data collection so services are not provided in culturally appropriate manner • Literacy level and English fluency are both important pieces of information to collect/gather when first providing services for community because many community members have limited education • Suggestion for immigration-related information to be gathered that is clinically important but that process needs to be collaborative with the community and staff be trained appropriately

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns were expressed regarding the data collection privacy and potential for misuse of the immigration-related information collected • It was recommended that LAC DMH gather information about technology use/knowledge of consumer and potential consumers • It was further recommended that consumers be part of the effort to increase telemental health use in Los Angeles County • Another recommendation was to ensure that psycho-education about mental health be provided to consumers, especially if it is their first-time receiving services; use consumer-friendly language
Capacity-Building Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our House recommended a project focused on helping the community understand and heal from grief and loss, especially traumatic grief related to COVID called “Healing in Community” • The project would provide education on grief and reduce the stigma related to grieving while provided linkage and information on mental health-related issues that occur when the grief is not processed or talked about • Suggestion was made to make sure hours of workshops are tailored to the community’s ability to attend and with wide dissemination. • Projects should be focused on Latino children, TAY, young adults to increase mental health use • There will be another round of capacity-building project brainstorming later this Fall
Latino Mental Health: Current and Future Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortage of Housing navigators for the Latino community, especially Spanish speaking • Increase in telemental health and phone appointments has resulted in increased demand for interpreters for Latino community so DMH needs better understanding of the demand • There is a need for a comprehensive Needs Assessment to understand the true impact of COVID-19 on the Latino community • Increase support for chronic stress/toxic stress that Latino community is experiencing • Stress and conflict between parents and teachers/schools over COVID-related issues
DMH/Community Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sherin will be invited to next Latino UsCC meeting to celebrate Hispanic/Latino Heritage month and to share his vision for Latino mental health for the next few years • Hector was thanked for his 2 years serving as Latino UsCC Co-Chair and for all his advocacy work on behalf of the UsCC and the community • Details are still being worked on the comprehensive Needs Assessment focused on Latino Mental Health by DMH to understand full impact of COVID-19 on the community’s mental health • Co-Chairs and Dr. Guzman are exploring the formation of an ad-hoc composed of Latino youth
	Meeting Adjourned – 4:00pm
Next Meeting	September 21, 2021, from 2:00 pm – 4:00pm Virtual Venue: Microsoft TEAMS