

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Administrative Operations
API Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2021, 2:00pm – 4pm

Present: Dr. Andy Ying, Dr. Ann Marie Yamada, Dr. Anna Lee, Art Medina, Belinda Rabano, Brandy Figueroa, Crystal Clark, Danah Kim, Eddy Gana, Hector Ramirez, Kishen Bera, Melisa Acoba, Naomi Mizushima, Pastor Peter Kim, Patricia Oh, Paul Kang, Payal Sawhney, Richer San, Dr. Rocco Cheng, Shannon Rivers, Sheetal Ayyatan, Dr. Sheila Wu, Dr. Seema Arora, Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood, Usophea Chim, Vickie Xu, Young Kim

Bo - Cambodian Interpreter

Sung - Korean Interpreter

DMH Admin: Dr. Luis Guzman, Pinki Mehta

Welcome & Introductions

- Subcommittee Members, Housekeeping, Attendance, Co-Chairs

Review of Meeting Minutes: Johana Lozano motioned to approve the minutes without corrections, Dr. Andy Ying made a second motion to approve

Update Call Center / H.O.M.E. Program

- Kishen discussed noticing an increase in resources for community members facing anti-API hate but reported that community still needs additional resources and support
- South Asian Community group (SAAHAS) is hosting workshops/virtual events to spread awareness of the South Asian community/culture and raise awareness of Anti-API hate sentiment
- Cambodian community is also hosting cultural events in Long Beach and working with small/independent theaters to promote cultural plays highlighting the Cambodian culture
- Cambodia Town hosted a three-day event in the city of Long Beach featuring the Disney film Raya
- Community discussed importance of highlighting the diversity and rich culture of the API community
- API community is highly anxious and fearful of speaking up about anti-Asian attacks and are reluctant to share even with API bilingual, bicultural mental health providers
- Importance of doing outreach and engagement in culturally-familiar businesses (Boba places, laundromats, noodle food places, etc)
- Pastor Kim shared that API community still has difficulty figuring out how or who to report anti-API hate crimes/attacks; 211 is an option
- Request for funding from DMH to help support community leaders/groups working with API community to address anti-API hate crimes

- Payal requested that prevention programs/funding be prioritized to address some of the needs of the API-community to reduce the need for mental health services down the road
- Dr. Wu shared the need for programs to receive adequate funding for mental health services in addition to have flexible in funding to be able to respond to anti-API incidents in a timely manner
- Request for DMH to engage in collaborate efforts with CBOs to reduce disparities
- ARDI is focused on looking at data both internally and externally to allow for the conversations about how does DMH drive funding and resources where it's most needed
- Department of Public Health is looking at racism issue from a systemic perspective to better understand disparities in different communities

Conversation w/Dr. Lisa Wong

- Call Center is going through multi-year modernization to better meet needs of the community
- Community Leadership Team (CLT) discussed modernization at last meeting and provided DMH with feedback
- Currently, there is a prototype of Call Center undergoing community feedback
- Next step is to incorporate feedback and bring it to community groups/UsCC for conversations on gaps/areas for improvement
- Homeless Outreach Mobile Engagement Team is DMH's field-based team focused on supporting the homeless/unhoused community members
- Current shortage of HOME teams throughout the County; more funding is necessary to ensure unhoused API community is supported
- Community had a discussion on cultural elements of homelessness and how homelessness and housing instability looks different in the API community
- Housing instability often takes the form of multiple families living the same home; COVID increased stress among these families and risk of exposure/outbreak among family members
- Stigma among Japanese community of being homeless or being placed in Board and Care facilities
- Current efforts to expand affordable housing for people with disabilities, including mental health conditions
- County is currently looking to improve/change the way it does contracting with CBOs
- API UsCC will form an ad-hoc committee around the issue of Board and Care to further advise DMH

Open Community Discussion

- Dr. Anna Lee asked for a follow-up on DMH's Cultural Connections and Traditions newsletter that was to be physically distributed throughout Los Angeles County, but community didn't hear anything about newsletter after initial presentation

DMH Updates

- None reported.

Meeting Adjourned

Upcoming Meeting: November 22, 2021