

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Strategic Communications Division
Black & African Heritage UsCC Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2021
2:00pm

Welcome/Introductions:

Present: Dr. Sandra Chang, Desiree DeShay, Keacha Stewart, Senait Adamassu, Erica Melbourne, Marilyn Huff, Carline Davis, Dr. Karen Gunn, Pinki Mehta, Kelly Wilkerson, Angela Scott, Keith, Cleo Ray, Stella, Romalis Taylor, Nakeya Fields, Wendy Cabil, Arleen Santizo, Sonya, Maagic Collins, Donald Grant, MC Harris

Review 11/20 Meeting Minutes: Approved with minor correction...added Cleo Ray as Present.

DMH Update: DSW Covid 19: Pinki Mehta

Pinki Mehta shared that the Department received reports from the City Safety Managers and L.A. County partners that there may be some civil unrest surrounding the Presidential Inauguration. Deployment was temporarily suspended for the field based programs, except for crisis intervention services. There were no incidents reported, all field based operations have resumed.

Pinki Mehta shared information regarding the Covid Vaccine. DMH Employees who meet phase 1A criteria in the health care setting, or anyone who provide direct services, and any outreach teams and clinic staff have all been offered the vaccination, its their choice.

Pinki Mehta shared the shelter staff is currently working dual roles, providing daily functions as DSW workers. The Department has received an adequate supply of PPE, contributions from the state and county.

Pinki Mehta shared there will be a report on telehealth, the demographics and data of urgent care usage, crisis response, and the field based programs, access line, and the well being line, will be released and sent to the Board of Supervisors. Pinki stated this report will be shared with the subcommittee, and throughout the community to see where L.A. stands in providing services to the community.

Romalis Taylor asked what is the Department going to do to encourage the African American Community to take the COVID Vaccine?

Pinki Mehta shared the Department of Public Health is the agency who does the outreach for COVID Vaccine.

Dr. Gunn, Romalis Taylor and Wendy Cabil suggested the Department tackle the level of outreach to the Black community surrounding the vaccine.

Wendy Cabil suggested bringing additional peers from other SAs, include them and their voice to the platform. Develop more dialogue amongst the peers and clients, create a campaign to hear their voice, concerns and issues, and engage them in the discussion about the Vaccine.

Dr. Gunn will provide information at the next meeting on Implicit Bias. Dr. Gunn will be honored at the next meeting for Black History Month

DMH Update: Dr. Sandra Chang- Cultural Traditions Newsletter

Dr. Sandra Chang provided information regarding a new project that the CCC is presenting, inviting all of the UsCCs to be included.

The goal is to provide a space to build connections with the UsCCs and welcome the community to share their voice and address concerns related to the pandemic & social barriers while also making a connection to the community, through humanity and highlighting each culture group.

There will be a page dedicated for each subcommittee that would like to participate. The Newsletter will be issued on a quarterly basis.. Dr. Chang will be visiting all the UsCC groups to invite anyone who is interested. The project is open to those who want to be a part of it.

The newsletter will be quarterly; it will inform the community of resources available to them. It will also allow us to connect our cultures by sharing childhood upbringing experiences, food recipes, photography and poems.

Dr. Chang shared they will be forming a work group to compile information to plan the newsletter content.

Promotoras Updates: Nakeya Fields

Nakeya Fields provided an update regarding the Promotoras program. Nakeya asked for feedback from the DMH staff regarding the Promotoras. Nakeya shared that she and other task force members have been helping with the interviewing process. Nakeya shared the task force played a big role in recruiting by having a job fair where 90 stakeholders were assisted in the registration process at the application and resume workshop.

Nakeya shared she spoke with DMH and the numbers were high for African American applicants. There has been a slow process with hiring and some applicants are not accepting the position due to not knowing a start date.

Nakeya advised members of the community to continue to apply for the Health Promotoras. Nakeya shared that community members such as, people who work in a church, work in an organization, non profit, school workers, can all work as Health Promotoras.

Nakeya shared she is working directly with Dr. Partida and Katie Rodriguez on assisting applicants through the process. Nakeya is concerned about the MH Promotoras success through the program, will they be hired to help the UsCCs and the community based organizations and the members who attend the meeting as a mentor an opportunity for the placement of the Health Promotoras.

Nakeya shared the correct email address is theoutreach@blackmentalhealth.net for applicants to send their name and information once they apply for the MH Promotoras. Marilyn is doing the outreach compiling the resumes, other task force members are also volunteering to assist in the process.

Nakeya asked DMH to provide some feedback and/or update regarding the hiring stage and process of the applicants who have already applied. Dr. Sandra Chang shared Dr. Partida would be providing an Update at the next UsCC/CCC Leadership meeting in the next few days.

Dr. Gunn expressed concerns about the MH Promotoras program, Desiree DeShay will ask Dr. Partida to attend the next meeting to clarify and answer questions.

Update on current Capacity Building Projects 2020 & 2021: Desiree

Desiree provided an update to the subcommittee on the 2020/2021 capacity building projects. The Youth Ambassador Project for SA1 will be completed by February 2021, it was extended from December of 2020.

Dr. Grant provided an update they are on the last set of presentations for Black History Month, workshops went very well surrounding Black Mental Health. Dr. Grant shared there are 10 more sessions that needs completion.

Dr. Grant asked for connections with the L.A. Sentinel he needs to place an ad for their next session but has been unsuccessful with L.A. Sentinel

Dr. Grant shared he will be incorporating some giveaways for his next Childrens book, he will share those dates with the group. Dr. Grant shared the website for the purchase of the book.

Desiree DeShay shared the progress of the other two projects, SOW's have been compleed, Nakeya is helping with the reference quotes to be submitted to ISD. Pinki shared the projects were approved and sent to Procurement.

Desiree will send out the Vendor information to apply through DMH, for those who want to start bidding.

Desiree shared she will send out the Proposal Applications, and she will go over what the proposals are at the February meeting. Once the proposals are received they are going to be brought back to the group next month. The presenters will be given a brief amount of time to present their proposals to the group, then a discussion and voting takes place.

Nakeya stated to have your proposals ready to present and your ideas. If you need a template please reach out to the Co-Chairs

Discussion regarding community needs with Covid 19:

Wendy /Moment of Silence!

Wendy asked the members to provide the needs of the community.

--education on vaccine..Michelle

--early childhood intervention - Nakeya

--maternal health outreach - Nakeya

--truth about the vaccines, prevention work – Rayshell

--digital divide, who is the proper channel to distribute information to our people- Wendy

--where is the space for Black men? What are we doing for our Black Men?- Sonya

--Senait shared theres food, transportation, uber, prevention tools available for those affected by covid

--Carline suggested small breathing breaks, self care during the monthly meetings

Pinki Mehta shared Dr. Bonds will provide an update at the next Commissioner’s meeting. Pinki advised members to join the discussion to get more indepth information and an increased understanding. Pinki shared CIOB or telemental health or telehealth services will be the specific unit to handle that information.

Black and African Heritage Task Force Update: Nakeya

Nakeya Fields provided information to the subcommittee members on the progress of the Black Mental Health Task Force. Nakeya shared the mission and vision statement and the progress of the taskforce. They have developed their membership qualifications and membership agreement.

General Meetings are held on the first Monday of every month at 9:30am virtually.

The Task force is using Google Meet as their meeting platform

The Task force has four different work groups, Funding Coalition, Policy Systems Advocacy, Branding/Marketing and Events Strategy Crisis Intervention/Community Outreach workgroup.

Nakeya shared how the task force is impacting the Black Community.

Code of Conduct w/Co- Chairs of the UsCCs: Nakeya & Romalis

Nakeya Fields asked the members has anyone experienced any negative experience with a leader at a CCC or SALT meeting, or any other meeting as a community member?

Wendy stated yes, and how do a stakeholder address issues within the leadership?

Desiree DeShay suggested bringing the issue to the Co-Chair and Liaison to discuss the issue at hand, ask for a meeting with Pinki Mehta to further discuss the issue.

Desiree shared there may be a time where each Liaison will meet with the UsCC co chair and Liaison of the other group.

Desiree shared that she will ask Pinki Mehta to discuss Code of Conduct across the board with all of the UsCCs in February

Announcements:

Nakeya Fields shared the Santa Monica and Black Community Leaders are having Courageous Conversations on January 28, 2021 6pm to 8pm

Upcoming Meetings : 2/18/21, 3/18/21, 4/15/21, 5/20/21,6/17/21