

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

Welcome/Introductions:

Present: Nakeya Fields, Wendy Cabil, Senait Adamassu, Desiree DeShay, Marilyn Huffhibbler, Reba Stevens, Carlene, Dr. Karen Gunn, Romalis Taylor, Phillip Butler, Dr. Erica Melbourne, Keacha Stewart, Cleo Ray, J.M. Sales, Belanie Brown, Dr. Sandra Chang

1. January 2021 Meeting Minutes Approved

Members approved a motion to exclude language that's offensive or demeaning to a person in the meeting minutes)

2. Mental Health Task Force Update - Nakeya

Nakeya provided an update to the subcommittee members on the following:

Upcoming Event Celebrating Black Families on Friday

Workgroup Meetings continue Monthly

Educating about Step Movement, Celebration Event

Greek Fraternity & Sorority

Panel on Divine 9

Spoken Word

AAIMM San Gabriel Valley

Redesign of the Website Resource Page February 25, 2021 @ 10:30 am

Nakeya asked members to submit a video to be added to the website, please forward your videos asap.

Black History Segment: Wendy Cabil

Wendy Cabil shared Black History Trivia Flash Cards and everyone participated in a Trivia game that was really fun. The group shared their questions and answers, and learned some Black History Trivia together along with fun and laughter.

1. Who was the first Black Mayor of a Major American City?

Carl Stokes from Cleveland Ohio

2. Gwendolyn Brooks was the first Black Person to win a Jubilee Prize for what Book?

Annie

3. Who was the first Black Female Aviator?

Bessie Coleman

4. Who was the first Official African American Candidate to run for President?

Frederick Douglas

5. The 7th day of Kwanza is observed on January 1st what is the meaning?

Emani

Senait Adamassu: African Perspective

Do you know how many states are in Africa?

55 Countries

Do you know where the African UN is located?

Ethiopia established in 1963

In 2015 which continent has the most educated in Immigrants?

Nigerian, Ghana, Ethiopia

Presentation of Capacity Building Projects Proposals 2020 & 2021

- Dr. Phillip Butler provided an update to the group regarding his capacity building project called Seekr. Artificial Intelligence for the Mind.
- Dr. Phillip shared background information about the Seekr project, how Seekr works, how it interacts with the users asking how they are feeling. The user is directed to necessary resources based on their situation.
- Seekr is a Black conversational artificial intelligence that serves as a powerful culturally relevant mental health interface.
- Individuals can utilize Seekr by a utilizing a text based system that you can interact with and ask questions based on your situation
- Dr. Phillip discussed the Implementation Model and explained in detail, Seekr Benefits, 24/7 Access, Works with Clinicians, and Seekr Safeguards.
- Dr. Phillip shared Seekr uses AWS servers for HIPAA compliance, PMI access limited to designated individuals
- IFS conversation pathways are built to reduce harm

Marilyn Huffhibbler - Capacity Building Project Blaccinate LA

- Blaccinate LA project idea is to assemble a congregation of Faith-Based leaders in the Black Community who will serve as ambassadors and role models for the administration of the Covid-19 Vaccine. Church sited will be outfitted to administer the vaccine on a drive thru and walk up basis.

- Mental Health Promoters will engage clients in services by assisting them with completing applications and follow up visits for the second administration of the vaccine.
- The Purpose of this project is to persuade Black Community members to take the vaccine. There is an issue with accessibility to receive the vaccine.
- The pandemic has increased a digital divide with lessens the ability for Blacks to make appointments. Appointment sites are usually drive-thru and require an automobile to access the vaccine.
- The MH workers will eradicate stigma and build relationships with the community members.
- The goal of this project is to increase the number of Blacks receiving the Covid Vaccine and decrease the number of infection and deaths.
- This program will meet clients where they are, reduce and eliminate barriers to obtaining the vaccine and promote more equitable distribution and access
- Increase vaccination accessibility for the underserved and increase engagement with the DMH

Implicit Bias 1.0 UsCC Black & African Heritage Committee (Presentation) Dr. Karen Gunn

- Dr. Gunn shared the goals this presentation is to provide an understanding of implicit bias for individual awareness
- Dr. Gunn presented the importance of implicit bias for mental health services and UsCC Black and African Heritage advocacy
- Dr. Gunn shared implicit bias is a human condition, it plays a big role in systemic racism.
- Dr. Gunn explained the difference between explicit and implicit bias to the group
- Dr. Gunn shared the origins of implicit bias and what influences them.
- Dr. Gunn asked the group to type in the chat box the 2-3 things they notice first when meeting a stranger?
- Dr. Gunn shared the importance of understanding Implicit Bias, and how the outcome will lead to social and racial justice
- Dr. Gunn explained how DMH can address Implicit Bias within the Department and the UsCC Black & African Heritage Subcommittee
- Dr. Gunn shared how the SALT/SAAC 6 Advocacy work should improve in areas such as improving diversity and inclusion of members
- Dr. Gunn explained how to understand the history and needs of the community, and how to identify equitable priorities for MH services
- Dr. Gunn stated she will share the PowerPoint presentation with the subcommittee members

Announcements:

Erica - Women of Faith Conference 3/13/21

Nakeya - Invited members to a Step Show Celebrating Black Families Event, Chicago Step Class

Dr. Gunn February 21st Committee for Racial Justice

Wendy – Join the 90th Symposium , Lafla.org to register Tuesday 23rd,24th and 25th.

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