

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Strategic Communications Division
Black & African Heritage UsCC Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday May 28, 2020 2:00pm

Welcome & Introductions

Participants: Desiree Deshay, Erica Melbourne, Romalis Taylor, Cleo Ray, Nakeya Fields, Reba Stevens, Andrea McPherson, Senait Adamassu, Maritza Cuestas, Carlene Davis, Martin Jones, Dr. Sandra Chang, Belanie Brown, Wendy Cabil

DMH update DSW COVID 19

- The UsCC unit staff has been deployed as DSW's
- There is a Warm line for staff and consumers who are in need of emotional support
- The Warm line provides various resources from 9am to 9pm call in # 1800-845-7771, this is the Access line now called the Warm-line
- Erica Melbourne stated the last SALT meetings had their first virtually
- Erica Melbourne shared the department has been providing resources to staff who have been deployed to the shelters.
- SA6 was able to do a Clergy Breakfast
- Erica Melbourne encouraged individuals to attend May is Mental Health Month virtually

AAA new name is Black & African Heritage UsCC Subcommittee

- 3 people voted, 2 votes to 1, 11 people who were eligible to vote
- There were 2 meetings where this was discussed as a group, the month of February the group selected 5 names to choose from
- A survey monkey was sent out to the eligible voters prior to the Covid pandemic to all the eligible voters
- Desiree Deshay stated if anyone need a copy of the list of voters who are eligible to vote, she would provide the information on request
- Cleo Ray stated she did not receive a survey monkey to vote for the AAA new name
- Desiree Deshay assured Cleo Ray that she will send her membership information to see if she was eligible to vote

Update on current Capacity Building Projects

- DMH/Strategic Communications Capacity Building Projects are on hold due to Covid 19 Pandemic

Discussion regarding community needs with COVID19

- Romalis Taylor stated the largely populated areas of African Americans need resources to access services for food, health, unemployment, mh support, wic.
- Nakeya Fields stated the African Americans in the community needs a safe space where they can be heard and trusted
- Carlene Davis stated the sister circle program is reaching out to communities, they have transitioned to a full virtual program
- Carlene Davis shared that the sister circle is concerned about the elders in the community, some have challenges with accessing technology, and social isolation
- Andrea McPherson is concerned about the community having access to treatment and more preventative care techniques
- Andrea McPherson stated the community needs education, how do they outreach to the African American community better?
- Martin Jones stated the Speakers Bureau was implemented for faith based and community based organizations to talk about the virus/resources
- Martin Jones shared that testing and other supportive services are available and telephone lines have been setup for the community to have connection to resources working with Barbara & Floyd and Kedren
- Martin Jones shared The Department has started a Warm-line, Normal Access Center for Crisis line, a line for employees and for veterans to connect to resources to address Covid.19 related issues.
- Martin Jones shared the services that are available are in the early stages, brand new projects are in place since the Covid crisis.
- Martin Jones stated they have Clergy round tables, regular meetings are held in SA6 and SA1 & SA8 they include the faith based leaders, they are making their needs known.
- Erica Melbourne invited others to attend the Clergy Workgroup, she is the Co-Facilitator.
- Martin Jones stated the Department needs the community to bring forward their needs and resources.
- Sandra Chang shared requests have been received from faith based organizations for African American communities and a series of trainings are being provided by UCLA.
- Sandra Chang stated UCLA centers of excellence is training the participants of the Speakers Bureaus to teach them how to work with the faith based organizations.
- The Faith Based and Community Based Organizations is also receiving training and materials are being provided to deliver to the community to know how the resources are available and how to collaborate, addressing grief, laws, our family friends and community related to Covid.19
- Sandra Chang shared there will be an online training for the UsCC Subcommittees and the CCC and other venues, to address
- Online demonstrations on how to utilize technology will be implemented to the UsCC Subcommittees and the CCC's

- Belanie Brown stated she wrote a proposal in 2008 with Crenshaw Christian Center, West Angeles and other faith based organizations.
- Belanie Brown stated the department is doing re-work, she was never credited for the writing and documentation she created.
- Romalis Taylor stated Belanie Browns document was revised and renamed
- Belanie Brown stated the AAA group is disrespecting the DMH.
- Belanie Brown stated she created the Ambassadors Speakers Bureau under Dr. Marvin Southard
- Shavonda shared LA Care Health Plan is reaching out to over 30,000 members since Covid 19 through hospitals and other organizations within the AA community.
- Shavonda stated the staff is making calls out to the LA Care members, 56% of the individuals have been contacted
- LA Care is providing information and transportation services to the testing sites if needed, and assisting them with medication pick-up
- LA Care have connected over 11,000 members with resources, and they have a street based effort targeting the homeless community.
- LA Care is providing testing sites in several communities, assisting and connecting the community members to services.
- Nakeeya Fields stated there is a need for more clinicians of color, and there is racial isolation in insurance, resources and programs
- Romalis Taylor asked the members to share their strategies with the group, email your list of strategies to Desiree Deshay.
- Wendy Cabil stated the Access for all subcommittee needs more AAA members present at their meetings.

Future Meetings: 9/24/20
10/22/20