

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Strategic Communications Division
Black & African Heritage UsCC Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 29, 2020 2:00pm

Welcome/Introductions

Present: Romalis Taylor, Nakia Fields, Dr. Sandra Chang, Desiree Deshay, Keacha Stewart, Kisha, Senait Adamassu, Imani, Wendy Cabil, Tiana Brown, Martin Jones, Hector Ramirez, Reba Stevens

DMH UPDATES: Dr. Sandra Chang provided updates to the subcommittee

- MHSA 3 Year plan public comment portion has been extended
- Hearing is scheduled for July 2, 2020 @ 10:00 a.m.
- Stakeholders will discuss their needs and concerns
- This information will be shared on the DMH Website
- Send emails to all USC Stakeholder groups

PLAN MEETING WITH DR. SHERIN

- Bring forth agenda items to be discussed
- Send email to connect the groups
- Meeting will be set for Mid July

DMH WEBSITE:

- Dr. Chang suggested visiting the website for pertinent information regarding the MH Commission
- Please visit Covid-19 Updates for daily updated resources
- Dr. Chang suggested sharing this website with the subcommittee groups

CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECTS

- Currently on hold
- Not moving forward due to Covid-19
- Possible discussion in July regarding monitoring projects
- Discussion of new projects for the new fiscal year
- Nakia Fields suggested compiling a report for the MH Commission on the impact on the Black Community Mental Health

- Nakia shared they need to be more proactive and aggressive
- Dr. Chang shared that Covid-19 has affected the Black and African Heritage Community

MHSA NEXT MEETING

- It has been posted
- Subcommittee is requesting Pinki Mehta to further discuss
- Pinki Mehta was to organize the meeting for the UsCCs to be present
- Reschedule a meeting with the MHSA Commission
- Dr. Chang suggested slots be reinstated for the Co Chairs to speak
- Reba Stevens shared their were some technical challenges during the last meeting
- Reba Stevens shared their will be a second round of public comments on the 3 Year plan on July 2, 2020
- Reba Stevens suggesting when sending emails to the MH Commission include Brittney Weiss man to the email
- July 2, 2020 meeting Co-chairs are requesting a separate phone line from the community
- Nakia Fields suggested the Co-chairs meet to discuss the information that will be in the report
- UsCCs Leadership Meetings will resume on July 21, 2020

ROMALIS TAYLOR COMMUNITY NEEDS UPDATE

- Need for school support/materials
- Internet Access
- Antelope Valley in need of resources
- Communities need support
- Rental Assistance
- MD Appointments
- Transportation
- Dental Care
- Access
- Culturally Linguistic Appropriate MH Therapist needed

NAKIA FIELDS

- Create Advocacy Tele health Standard of care
- Suggest advocacy beyond the pandemic
- Provide Internet computers tablets to families without access
- Advocate/Recruitment of Black Providers for DMH

SENAIT ADAMASSU

- Suggests a roster of services providers for colored communities
- Public Community asking about Therapy
- Tele health is very important

MARTIN JONES

- New Platform/V.C.C
- DMH is moving forward with Tele mental health in all Directly Operated Clinics
- Recently received additional licenses to expand the use of the VC platform
- In the past stipends were awarded to various groups
- Suggests DMH has a cultural piece that will be in asset in establishing relationships in the Community

WENDY CABIL

- Has DMH provided a virtual meeting to discuss the recent lynching in Antelope Valley

DMH STAFF

- DMH is looking into conversations around these issues
- There was a Skype meeting with 200 supervisors, covered some issues
- Dr. Bonds had a similar conversation with Division Leaders
- Dr. SHERIN addressed this topic at the Town Hall
- Staff Proposals has developed
- Department has rehired a Consultant who trains the trainer model

Nakia suggested the committee create supportive events representing from the DMH subcommittee, letting the community know we hear them

Dr. SHERIN needs to make a statement to the community

DMH ACTION NEEDS

- Need for MH support
- Lynching
- Law Enforcement/DEATHS
- Structured Community Outreach

Hector Ramirez

- Lack of outreach to cultural communities
- Loss of opportunity for the African community
- DMH needs to take action to meet the needs of the diverse ethnic communities

Sandra Chang

- Train staff to do self care
- Speakers Bureau starting to match licensed clinicians who are bilingual to work with communities in the language they need
- DMH has a list of faith based organizations as well as the Board of Supervisors
- Speakers Bureau Representative connected to address clinical needs
- Via/Skype/phone/email providing resources
- Presentations assisting different communities
- Referrals from the Board of Supervisors
- Black African Churches
- Community Based Organizations

Please listen to the Meeting Audio by clicking here:

OR

**Upcoming Meetings: 7/23/20
8/2/20
9/24/20
10/22/20**