

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

**Black & African Heritage
UsCC MONTHLY MEETING
August 19, 2021 – via MS Teams**

MINUTES

Call to Order and Facilitator Roll Call

Rosario Ribleza called the meeting to order. Members introduced themselves and engaged in a popcorning to one another with introducing.

Review/Approval of Minutes

A motion was passed to approve the meeting minutes from July 15, 2021.

Updates from Black Mental Task Force

Nakeya Fields discussed the capacity building projects and one of projects which was launched called The Black family series conversation in collaboration with the Department of Public Health and the Aim Initiative. The first conversation event, which is about Black mental health and wellness in the Black community, physical and mental health. Imani Bradley, Nakeya Fields, Michael Henry, the turning point therapists and other black male therapist will be on the panel for this event. Turning Point, a partner in Black Mental Health Task Force, is having a toy drive and a toy giveaway twice in the month of December. Discussion around supporting our community members was also discussed and detailed information was giving. Two other updates were giving regarding one group developed out of the task force called Stabilizing Sundays which is an outreach program targeted toward black men and mental health. The other project comes from the African American Infant and Maternal Mortality Community Action Team Policy Work Group, and funding work groups and lasting the Painted Brain which is one of the partners with the mental health task force has led to the effort to get funding for psychiatric advance directives in five additional counties, minus LA county.

Updates from African Coalition

The African coalition is currently working on a few projects. The first one is the COVID outreach which is encouraging the community to come together, raising awareness about it. They did a collaboration of vaccination with Kedren Community Health. The goal is to assist 1000 community members with being vaccinated. The Coalition is collaborating with DPSS to provide updated and current information regarding COVID policies. We will be speaking to with two Ethiopia communities tonight and next week, the West African communities. They are also

working with victims of crimes district offices to people that have been affected by crimes going on and help victims to receive services. The African Coalition has also partnered with the emergency network of L.A which is a part of the Red Cross and FEMA as well as collaboration is Service Area 6 to support community members with mental health services.

Guest Speaker – Annette Trejo

Ms. Trejo provided a detailed presentation on The African American Infant & Maternal Mortality Prevention Initiative. She works specifically with the San Gabriel Valley Regional Health office. The presentation focused on life and data, what are the root causes? What's happening? What is the AAIMM Prevention Initiative? How is it involved? What is it doing? Where does the Community Action Team come into play? And talk a little bit about Call To Action. Annette played a detailed documentary, and an in-depth discussion was held during and after the presentation. Anette mentioned; National Black breastfeeding week, which starts next week on Wednesday, August 25th; doing a baby item giveaway.

Update on Capacity Building Projects

The next project is Minding Our Village Elders. - The purpose of this project is to essentially reach out to our most vulnerable populations. The focus on maternal mental health and perinatal mood and health. The focus will also be on whole family wellness and working with elderly and the youth in conjunction with each other is the healthiest way to address all of our most vulnerable populations, and also hopefully develop a workforce.

DMH Updates

Pinki Metha:

- September is national suicide prevention month Los Angeles Suicide Prevention Network or LASP. There will be a pre-conference and post-conference events and then a two-day virtual summit.
- Our Veteran Peer Access Network is usually referred to as the VPAN has a lot of resources to connect you if you have friends or family maybe just dealing with their crisis of what's happening in Afghanistan; V-P-A-N, Veteran Peer Access Network.
- There is an executive order from Chair Hilda Solis regarding COVID. Every county employee has been ordered to be vaccinated by October 1st, 2021. The only two exemptions that exist are those for a medical exemption or a religious exemption. Both the Department of Mental Health and other county partners alongside with the Department of Human Resources and the CEO's Office is ensuring that we as a

department comply with this executive order to make sure every employee is vaccinated, or thereby providing one of those exemptions.

- Dept. of Mental Health is working to provide school-based mental health resources and those are available for the children in the school, the parents, and the families. LAUSD or LACOE, L.A. County Office of Education, L-A-C-O-E System.
- Pinki will follow up on Black & African Heritage Mental Health Promoters with Dr. Partida.

Public Comments

The Lancaster Sheriff's Station Community Advisory Community staff wanted everyone to know that the impact on "illegal grows" is having on mental health issues in their area.

Announcements

- Keacha is being deployed to the Warmline; this will be her last meeting with the UsCC. We wish her well.
- Event with Mark Ridley- Thomas Let's Be Whole
- Wall of Fame bang the jacket box event on Florida and Washington next Saturday.
- DMH Access Warmline (800) 854-7771 is available to anyone who needs emotional support, immediate crisis services, and resources anywhere in Los Angeles County. There are also volunteer opportunities available for those who are interested in volunteering to work on the Warmline, please email helplineinfo@dmh.lacounty.gov

The meeting adjourned at 4:06 pm. The next UsCC meeting will be held via MS Teams on September 16, 2021 from 2:00-4:00 pm