

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Strategic Communications Division
Black & African Heritage UsCC Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
August 27, 2020 2:00pm

Welcome/Introductions

Present: Romalis Taylor, Nakeya Fields, Dr. Sandra Chang, Desiree Deshay, Keacha Stewart, Senait Admassu, Imani Bradley, Wendy Cabil, Belanie Brown, Dr. Karen Gunn, Erica Melbourne, Nicole Evans, Blake Johnson, Kelly Wilkerson, Kristie Summerville, Marilyn Huffhibbler, Cleo Ray

DMH Updates: DSW Covid 19 Dr. Sandra Chang

- Dr. Sandra updated the subcommittee on the status of the current UsCC projects that are on hold due to Covid.19
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Update on Current Capacity Building Projects-Desiree DeShay

- Warmline number 1800 854-7771
- Romalis Taylor stated the groups are working on current ways to produce the projects using media platforms
- The Projects that had public facing deliverables are being looked at, vendors are working with the department to modify the projects
- The Projects need to be modified to a public media platform, they are not able to work directly with the community due to covid.
- Internal paperwork will have to be amended for the contracts.
- Desiree provided an update on the current projects, the capacity building projects has 3 phases.
- Phase One – all the paperwork, contracts with the department, deliverables are out in the community, waiting for finalization with media
- Phase Two – Sow-Statement of Work or proposal is written, process of consultant or contractor to prepare to become a vendor
- Phase Three- projects that the UsCCs had discussed that are in process of developing a proposal
- The UsCC Liaisons will receive updates regarding the Capacity Building Projects

Nominations for New Co-Chair for The Black & African Heritage Group

- Romalis Taylor has ended his term as the Co-Chair
- Everyone thanked Romalis for his hard work and dedication to the Black & African Heritage subcommittee
- Wendy Cabil was nominated to be a Co-Chair
- Nakeya nominated Laenay London to be a Co-Chair
- Voting members will be eligible to vote for the Co-Chair position

Discussion regarding community needs with COVID-19- Romalis Taylor

- Romalis Taylor stated their group has money that they need to decide what to do with it to help the community deal with their issues.
- Romalis Taylor stated there is challenges with technology and communication access for the clients to receive treatment and services
- Romalis Taylor asked the members to send in their concepts and recommendations to Desi & Nakeya, an outline of their ideas to further discuss as a group
- Romalis Taylor asked all the new members to email their information to Desiree to be added to the roster @ddeshay@dmh.lacounty.gov
- Romalis Taylor stated Compton Long Beach and Lancaster area consumers are struggling with wifi, internet connections, cannot connect with a clinician, no computers, tablets, or hotspots to access services.
- Romalis Taylor asked Dr. Sandra Chang to connect them with the person who is working on the platform for technology, invite them to the next meeting. The subcommittee is requesting any material that the department can share with them
- Sandra Chang stated this platform will also help the deaf and hard of hearing to communicate better.
- Romalis Taylor asked that Desiree Deshay sends out the past proposals to all the members of the group

Black & African Heritage Task Force Update- Nakeya Fields

- Nakeya stated she is looking for Co-Chairs for the MH Task Force
- MH Task Force meeting will be held on 9/7/20 @ 9:30 a.m.
- <https://doterrahealinghands.org/advocate-led-projects/mommy-matters>
- hello@therapeuticplayfoundation.org

Task Force Objective/Mission

- To improve mental health care within the Black & African heritage community by offering recommendations to the broader mental health care community that assist in removing barriers to education, access to trusted Clinicians and healing
- To create action oriented change around the wellness around the Black and Heritage people
- Pharoah suggested to educate individuals how to empower themselves, their families and their communities through MH and other community services
- John Smith suggested to improve MH care within the black and African heritage community through offering recommendations to the broader mental health care community that assists them, removing barriers to education

Task Force Member Interest/Identification

- Nakeya is volunteering as a Lead on this Task Force

Romalis suggested to send the members who were not present an invite to be part of the task force committee

Task Force Chair Selection Process

- Dr. Karen Gunn, Andrea Mc Pherson, Wendy Cabil & Pharoah is interested in becoming a part of the task force.
- Nakeya asked if anyone interested to send her an email expressing their interest @ hello@therapeuticplayfoundation.org
- Nakeya stated there will be a doodle poll to discuss the first meeting of the Task Force committee
- Nakeya stated there will be an official vote for the Chair person at the next meeting.
- Nakeya suggested the group meets twice a month, she will develop a poll and send this out to the members

- Dr. Chang stated Desi Deshay will circulate the information to everyone on voting for the Co-Chair position
- The group will discuss project ideas at the next meeting.
- Task Force Meeting Frequency- unable to discuss
- Task Force Project Ideas- unable to discuss

Romalis Taylor is stepping down as Co-Chair and he is hoping anyone who is interested in becoming a Co-Chair to let them know so they can be added to the list of those that are interested. They hope to do a survey monkey for new Co-Chair in September. Romalis would like to be around to assist the new Co-Chair in this transition.

Romalis Taylor asked that Desiree send forward a survey monkey to select a new Co-Chair by September 2020. Members will have the opportunity to become a Co-Chair for the subcommittee, you must have attended 50% of the meetings to be eligible to become a co-chair, either self-selected or be nominated. Only two individuals have been identified to run for the position. Desiree will check eligibility and send out survey monkey for voting for new Co-Chair in September.

Announcements:

Upcoming Meetings : 10/22/20