

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

**Black & African Heritage
UsCC MONTHLY MEETING
September 16, 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 update of capacity building project The family Conversation series with the August event, the topic was stigma around mental health and physical health in the Black community. Fourty people registered only 20 people attended, the event was featured in the Pasadena Star-News. The next event will be September 18th at Jackie Robinson Park, this conversation series topic will is called “Supporting life skills building for transitional age Black Youth” this is essentially a cultural experience while learning about mental health. The October conversation series will be “New and Expecting Black Parents. The following one in November will be “Black and Unhoused”, then the final one is “Cannabis and LGBTQIA community in the Black community, and then end with a Community Awards Gala. The next capacity building project is coming up call the Minding Our Village Elders Project, in which youth will be trained, ages 16-25. In this project the focus is to find peer mentors, who are people with lived experience as seniors, or who have worked with seniors in the past and have a little bit more elevated experience. The goal is to train all our community service leaders. December 9th is the first training date.

BMTF have become advocates for the Black health promoters’ program and looking forward to having conversations with Dr. Partida.

Updates from African Coalition

The African coalition’s focused mainly on immigrant refugee Black and Afro Latino. Currently dealing with a lot of issues and working to get our people assessments around the border of San Diego and Tijuana.

Another project being developed working with the Department of Homeland Security here to educate, training on how to approach new commerce from a cultural perspective.

The third thing we are a part of is the Emergency Network of Los Angeles, which is a combination, collective of different entities. It's like FEMA, but local level going through for emergency cases, whether it's fire or water or in disaster.

AC is also a part of the advisory committee for OAC, OAC MHSA, which is an Oversight and Accountability Commission to MHSA. They look at how culturally appropriate a budget allocated and/or service fair for people.

There is a project being developed with DMH incubation, in which we're expanding our mental health services, targeting the African and Caribbean community, and helping with those who have language barriers.

There will be another vaccination event in October.

Guest Speaker – Queen Nina Womack, Transmedia Producer

Using the Arts, Nutrition Security & Health Promotion to help the Underserved Presentation: Queen Nina discussed her childhood trauma as well as her self-healing and recovery as well as her motivation to involve in her life's purpose. She displayed a beautiful presentation and shared with the committee her amazing story and journey to self-healing and wholeness. The name of her organization is called "Let's Be Whole". It is a peer-based wellness and food security provider assisting underserved communities to become empowered through a holistic approach of self-care geared for an individual's physical, psychological, and spiritual wellbeing. We also promote sustainable living skills and positive environmental awareness. (Please see the transcript for the full presentation).

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. This event will start September 24th.
- The United Mental Health Promoters Program, there's over 300 community health worker positions available across a variety of cultural and linguistic needs.

Public Comments

Senait asked for support and collaboration around doing the mental health assessments for the immigrants at the border. Calling it a human issue and needing support and collaboration for the community to get involved.

Announcements

N/A

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