Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Administrative Operations
API Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2022, 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Present: Dr. Ann Marie Yamada; Dr. Anna Lee, Christina Rosel, Danah Kim, Eddy Gana, Eva Fukumoto, Hector Ramirez, Isabel Ramirez, Kishen Bera, Kishen Bera, Lourdes Rabello, Maria Tan, Mariko Kahn, Melisa Acoba, Naomi Mizushima, Patricia Oh, Pastor Peter Kim, Payal Sawhney, Richer San, Dr. Rocco Cheng, Rosario Ribleza, Sheetal Ayyathan, Sheila Wu, Sun Lim, Young Kim, Vickie Xu

Bo - Cambodian Interpreter
Sung - Korean Interpreter
DMH Admin: Dr. Luis Guzman

Welcome & Introductions
- Subcommittee Members, Housekeeping, Attendance, Co-Chairs

Review of Meeting Minutes: Hector Ramirez motioned to approve the minutes without corrections, Pastor Kim made a second motion to approve the minutes. Minutes approved.

Mental Health Service Act (MHSA)

- Brief presentation on MHSA (Prop. 63) by Dr. Guzman
- focuses on five different areas. The five (5) Areas of Prop 63: Prevention, Early Intervention, Infrastructure, Technology, Mental Health Workforce
- MHSA Prop 63 requires is that stakeholders be involved in the process at the county level, but also at the state level
- Requires ongoing stakeholder input and involvement at all levels of public mental health policy, program planning, implementation, monitoring, quality improvement, evaluation, and budget allocations
- Prop 63 directs the counties to spend up to 5% of their annual revenues from Prop 63 on community planning costs which includes stakeholder engagement efforts
- API community has so much diversity that the current funding for community capacity building projects that is provided is not enough to meet the growing needs of all the different groups within API umbrella
- Community request to start funding services through an equity lens, not equality-based lens which is currently used
- Request from API subcommittee to increase funding to meet unmet needs of diverse API community
- Community member identified RFP process really cumbersome to get Capacity-Building Projects approved; request to simplify process

- Community requested follow up to request for increase in funding for API UsCC by next API UsCC meeting by someone from DMH Executive Leadership Team; Dr. Guzman reported he will follow up with subcommittee

Data Desegregation

Current API data collection by the DMH focuses on API as monogamous group; language spoken is also collected by data is currently not parsed out to allocate resources or services

- Co-Chair the need to desegregate data to answer key questions including:
  - What parts of the county are we serving different API communities?
  - Are there areas of the county we are not serving a particular API group?
  - What is the density in the schools of that population?
  - The number of seniors or educational level and income level
  - The number of undocumented people within the API community that need/are receiving services
- Important to consider impact on legal entities/Community Mental Health clinics when it comes to burden/responsibility of this additional data collection
- API incarceration rates and intersection of mental health is issue that is largely missed by DMH; important to start to consider
- Increased data collection should have focus in mind of allowing DMH to look at intersectionality of identities and data at a more granular level to be intentional about meeting unmet needs
- LAC Department of Public Health has engaged in efforts to desegregate data on API community; suggestion to coordinate efforts between LA County Departments on data collection and desegregation
- Asian Americans Advancing Justice engages in provides a report after every census detailing need of API community and data collected from Census but at a more granular level
- Key point stressed was data on needs and population served needs to be matched by funding provided by DMH to reduce inequities for API community which have remained stagnant for more than 4 years (for API inequities)
- Co-chairs will bring this topic up at Community Leadership Team (CLT) to make progress on equity-based funding

API UsCC Feedback (Pastor Kim)

- Pastor Kim requested feedback from API UsCC subcommittee on 2021 meetings
- Specifically, Pastor Kim asked about concrete instances in which subcommittee provided direct support to members
- Community member shared that UsCC meetings help to provide emotional connection and support among different API stakeholders across the country and collaborate on overlapping issues
- Discussion on successes and areas that may need additional focus for 2022 to improve subcommittee meetings

- Co-Chair Richer asked subcommittee to decide what the priorities are for 2022 so the community can focus on in the meetings

Open Discussion on non-agenda items

- Community member stated that getting through to the DMH Access hotline is very difficult and often do not have a person available in the needed language of the caller
- Community shared that DMH needs to focus on improving caller access in threshold languages by adding staff that reflects community
- Upcoming opportunity for renewal sessions for API professionals with first session held on February 11 for those interested
- PPE availability for non-profit organizations that would need free PPE

DMH Updates

- None reported.

    Meeting Adjourned

Upcoming Meeting: February 28, 2022