

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Administrative Operations
API Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2022, 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Present: Dr. Ann Marie Yamada; Dr. Anna Lee, Belinda Rabano, Christina Rosel, Danah Kim, Eddy Gana, Eric Hernandez, Heidi Wedekind, Jessica Liu, Kishen Bera, Kishen Bera, Maria Tan, Mariko Kahn, Melisa Acoba, Naomi Mizushima, Pamela Inaba, Patricia Oh, Pastor Peter Kim, Paul Kang, Payal Sawhney, Richer San, Sheetal Ayyathan, Dr. Sheila Wu, Sithea San, Sun Lim, Trang Hoang, Victoria Juarez, Victoria Porras

Bo - Cambodian Interpreter

Sung - Korean Interpreter

DMH Admin: Dr. Luis Guzman

Welcome & Introductions

- Subcommittee Members, Housekeeping, Attendance, Co-Chairs

Review of Meeting Minutes: Patricia Oh motioned to approve the minutes without corrections, Sheetal Ayyathan made a second motion to approve the minutes. Minutes approved.

Provider Directory Feedback

- DMH is in the process of updating the DMH Provider Directory and is working with CLT to incorporate community feedback
- Dr. Luis Guzman provided an overview of the current DMH Provider Directory available for the public to use to find public mental health clinics and services in Los Angeles County
- Provider Directory has information that is outdated and inaccessible to some community members
- Provider Directory is available in LA County threshold languages but details for mental health clinics remains in English even when selecting the page to be viewed in a different language
- Common provided suggestions for improvement to be incorporated into the new Provider Directory including making sure all information is translated into the appropriate threshold language, add information or a link for public transportation information such as what bus routes are available to get to the desired clinic, and making the language less technical
- The intention of the new DMH Provider Directory is to roll out software that community clinics/legal entities can enter information on clinician availability on a regular basis and have it reflected on a daily basis in the Provider Directory

API Clinical Trainings

Clinician Training

- The Department of Mental Health currently offers two (2) trainings focused on the API community for clinical staff within the department. Those trainings are offered once per year with FY 2021-2022 being the first year they have been offered
- The current trainings offered include Racial Trauma in the Cambodian Community, Increasing Mandarin Mental Health terminology, and a conference on Staying Safe and Well: Navigating and Thriving During Uncertain Times
- Community request for the department to add trainings on increasing mental health terminology in the other API threshold languages (Vietnamese, Tagalog, Khmer, Korean)
- Dr. Lisa Wong is currently working with FSP providers throughout the LA County to develop a series of trainings for FSP providers working with the API community in partnership with UCLA
- Community requested that trainings offered for API DMH clinical staff be advertised to all clinicians in the department to increase awareness of new trainings being provided focused on working with the API community
- Recommended that the Department of Mental Health work with community mental health agencies to recruit API presenters to increase the trainings the DMH can offer to clinical staff
- Key recommendation from several community members was for the Department of Mental Health to prioritize trainings on anti-API hate for clinical staff and to provide resources/training for community organizations or legal entities

Community Trainings

- Community is interested in receiving Bystander Trainings focused on anti-API incidents that are currently being provided by a few non-profit organizations at a smaller scale
- API community would benefit from trainings to help the community support each other when experiencing Anti-API hate incidents or other traumatic stressful events to empower the community to support each other when incidents occur
- Community trainings should focus on API the business community to provide them with mental health education and empower them to support the API community when dealing with mental health issues/crisis

Workforce Development/Career Pathway

Brainstorming

- Community suggested that DMH take an intergenerational approach, consist with value of the many API communities when it comes to discussing mental health topics, including careers
- Request for DMH to use WET funding to intentionally recruit API students for paid MH internships because many second-generation API youth and young adults are bilingual and bicultural
- Outreach should be done by bicultural and bilingual clinical staff
- LAUSD has several magnet schools that are focused on healthcare careers
- Community is requesting funding allocation for PSA / marketing of mental health care careers, specifically focusing on bilingual students
- Request for DMH to restart the outreach using WET funding to interest youth in public high schools in mental health careers

Possible Barriers/Challenges

- There is a cultural divide between the First Generation and Second-Generation API family members, especially when parents are monolingual and are not fluent in English
- Parents often prefer children go into STEM careers and Medical School
- Many youth do not receive information in their high schools about mental health careers because there is a divide between education sector and mental health sectors

Open Discussion on non-agenda items

- National Institute of Health is requesting public comment / information from the community on how to improve research on health and wellbeing for Asian, Native Hawaiian, and other Pacific Islanders
- Community members voiced frustration and concern with the RFP process at Internal Services Department taking such a long time to publish RFPs for Capacity Building Projects and are requesting DMH work with ISD and County CEO to reduce barriers to critical funding for the API community

DMH Updates

- None reported.

Meeting Adjourned

Upcoming Meeting: April 25, 2022