

**Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Stakeholder Engagement Unit
Black & African Heritage Underserve Cultural Communities (UsCC) Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Thursday March 17, 2022, 2-4 pm**

WELCOME

Introductions/Check-In

Present: Romalis Taylor, Jim the Hat, Carey Grier, Dr. Erica Melbourne, Joyce Sales, Kevin Collins, Mary McQueen, Pharaoh Mitchell, Senait Admassu, Wendy Cabil, MC Harris, Nakeya Fields, Nina Womack, Rayshell Chambers

DMH Admin: Angel Baker, Destiny Walker, Kelly Wilkerson, Rosario Ribleza, Jeffrey Rodriguez

Approval of Minutes:

- February 22, 2022 minutes - approved by Wendy Cabil and second by Senait Admassu
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Black Mental Health Task Force:

- Discussed the highlights of the Gala Event, it was a success!
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African Coalition Update:

- Requesting everyone to complete the survey, that was sent out.
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Co-chair Recruitment and Discussion:

- Discussion on the requirements to become a co-chair. The charter will not be followed for this process due to the need of having a co-chair. Co-chairs can receive a stipend of \$125.00. Requesting all candidates. Voting will take place before the next meeting.
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Update on Existing Capacity Building Projects:

- The “Empowering the Black & African-American Family” A Wellness Conversation Series in Service Area 3 Project will end on March 31, 2022 – Series was aimed at SPA 3 but would like to move it closer to the West Adams area.
 - The Black & African American Village Elders Mental Health Project will end on June 30, 2022 – looking to have 15 people that have been trained and recruited. Peer Community Service Leaders are now spread out in Antelope Valley, Oxnard, LA County, Pasadena, and West Adams, they are outreaching to black seniors directly. If you have a site in any of the Service Areas in LA County that you would like one of our peer community service leaders to do a Black Elderly Outreach Mental Health Workshop, please do reach out to us and let us know. We have until June to facilitate those workshops and for our 15 peer community service leaders to do that.
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Update on proposed Capacity Building Projects:

Sow's are currently being completed for the following projects:

- Black Maternal Health & Early Childhood Intervention Empowerment Project
 - Strengthening Community Connections for Black Men – Boys Project
 - The Seekr Project (Artificial Intelligence Conversations)
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New Capacity Building Projects Ideas:

- Due to isolation during the pandemic impact on services clinicians and service providers, outreach, educate and bring awareness of available service to the community.
 - Peer-to-Peer to outreach and engage the peer community, as well as provide resources, social support, and getting them involved with the stakeholder process in a safe space.
 - Mentor program for the youth
 - Goals to increase membership in BAH meeting as well as other community meeting so that the black voice can be heard, using the SALT's, UsCC and Cultural Competency Committee Meetings.
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Community Engagement (Public Comment):

- Subcommittee members discussed some of the concerns during COVID including stressors and isolation.
 - Subcommittee members discussed some of the difficulties outreaching in the black communities and some of the struggles with them continuing to stay interested in receiving services.
 - Discussion on expanding upon how to successful reach black people who wanted to talk about cannabis and the impact on our community and use that platform to get them more involved with the group.
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Announcements:

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- Romalis Taylor attended the Leadership meeting and there was discussion around increasing the funds for the capacity building projects.
 - Bill proposed by Senator Lena Gonzales in the 33rd District, SB1019 Mental Health Services Access Awareness – while will provide affordable care
 - Free anti-COVID pills available at some LA county CVS Pharmacy's
 - March 31 is the deadline for COVID-19 Rent Relief Program
 - Breath LA is offering \$1000 a month if you reside in Los Angeles and make under \$50,000 a year
 - State of California is getting ready to give California residents a \$400 rebate for gas

Upcoming Meetings (third Thursday of the month, 2-4pm):
~~4/21/22~~; 5/19/22; 6/16/22; 7/21/22; 8/18/22; 9/15/22; 10/20/22; 11/17/22; 12/15/22

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

323-776-6996, Conference ID: 101 721 830#

***Changed Meeting Date - Black & African Heritage UsCC Subcommittee Meeting**

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 323-776-6996,,322156280#](#) United States, Los Angeles

Phone Conference ID: 322 156 280#