

**Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health  
Stakeholder Engagement Unit  
LGBTQIA2-S UsCC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
Thursday July 7, 2022, 2-4 pm**

**Welcome/Introductions**

**Present:** Nicole Kristal, Bill Sive, Greg Wilson, Merry Meyers, Mikey Fields, JavonTae Wilson, Bobby Dillard, Addison Rose Vincent, Cynthia Ruffin, Hector Ramirez, Jose Guevara, Live Xochi Salas, Rex Wilde, Ayana Rose, Bianca Martinez, Meisha Thrasher, Sharon Chapman, Rebecca Gitlin, Andrea Aoun

**Presenters:** Cynthia Ruffin, Meisha Thrasher

**DMH Admin:** Luis Guzman, Alan Chung Chiu Wu

**Getting To Know You** – JavonTae Wilson shared about himself.

**June 2022 Meeting Minutes** – Meeting minutes approved (first-Cynthia Ruffin, second-Bill Sive).

**DMH and Youth Advisory Council – Updates (Luis Guzman)**

- Dr. Luis Guzman provided an update regarding the Youth Advisory Council.
- Co-chair elections – there were two individuals nominated that were interested in running for co-chair (Mikey Fields and Ana Bernal). Kelly to send out an email after the meeting to request any other co-chair nominations.

**Black Family Unity Project (BFUP) – Presentation**

- Cynthia Ruffin from AMAAD and Meisha Thrasher from Grow UR Potential presented regarding the Black Family Unity Project (BFUP).
  - Final summary: [UsCC Final Project Summary \(6.27\).docx \(lacounty.gov\)](#)
  - Resources: [LGBT BIPOC Toolkit | growurpotential](#)
  - No Box No Label Video: [NoBox NoLabel - YouTube](#)
  - Black LGBTQ+ History Lesson Video: [Black LGBTQ History Lesson - YouTube](#)

**Capacity Building Projects Areas of Focus – Brainstorm**

- Areas of focus (previously voted on):
  - API community
  - Bisexual community (all races)
  - Disabled/neurodivergent community
  - Latinx community
  - Lesbian community
  - Two-spirit folks within the American Indian/Alaska Native/Hawaiian Native/First Nations communities

- Hector Ramirez shared regarding a project idea for the two-spirit community – a talking circle by and for two-spirit folks. Could potentially be a joint project with the AI/AN UsCC community or possibly a collaboration.
- Hector also shared regarding a second talking circle project for individuals experiencing mental health conditions (i.e. disabled/neurodivergent communities).
- Recommendation from Mikey Fields to include an intergenerational component in any project proposals.
- Rex Wilde shared regarding a project idea for a music album to be created by and for disabled and neurodivergent communities. This would involve personal stories of mental health and resilience.
- Hector recommended that DMH consider canceling projects or Purchase Orders if vendors are not meeting the requirements outlined.
- Kelly to send out capacity building project proposal guidelines and vendor registration instructions. Any capacity building project proposals should be sent to Kelly via email prior to the August meeting (8/4/22). All proposals will be shared during that meeting and then the group will move towards voting/ranking.

### **General Announcements/Resources**

- Mikey Fields announced that Black Gay Men’s Wellness Month is taking place in August. Please email Mikey or visit the In The Meantime website for more info: [mikey.itmt@yahoo.com](mailto:mikey.itmt@yahoo.com)
- Hector Ramirez shared that the Mental Health Commission will be having a small meeting related to Care Court taking place on 7/14/22. Kelly to forward information via email.
- Rex Wilde shared regarding the National LGBTQ Trans and Gender Expansive (TGX) Inclusion Task Force conference coming up in August. They are currently sponsoring membership for individuals who identify as TGX and are small business owners/entrepreneurs. Kelly to forward information via email.
- Luis Guzman shared that 988 would be launching soon (mental health crisis line similar to 911).
- Send any other resources to Kelly via email ([KeWilkerson@dmh.lacounty.gov](mailto:KeWilkerson@dmh.lacounty.gov)) to be sent out to the listserv.

**Upcoming Meetings (first Thursday of the month, 2-4pm):** 8/4/22, 9/1/22, 10/6/22, 11/3/22

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

323-776-6996, Conference ID: 542 042 921#

Meeting recordings and minutes can be found at <https://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mhsa/uscc/lgbtqia2-s-uscc/lgbtqia2-s-uscc-meeting-minutes/>