

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

Welcome/Introductions

Present: Ana Bernal, Mikey Fields, Nicole Kristal, Bill Sive, Greg Wilson, Merry Meyers, JavonTae Wilson, Bobby Dillard, Addison Rose Vincent, Hector Ramirez, Rex Wilde, Alex Salazar, Ayana Rose, Gia Olaes, Eden Luna, Tracy Zhao, Sharon Chapman, Rebecca Gitlin, Yue Hua Xu (Vicky), Andrea Aoun

DMH Admin: Kelly Wilkerson

Getting To Know You – Eden Luna shared about herself.

July 2022 Meeting Minutes – Meeting minutes approved (first-Nicole Kristal, second-Bill Sive).

Capacity Building Projects – Proposal Presentations

- Transforming Community Care: API LGBTQ+ Mental Health & Wellness Project - Project Description: The project will increase awareness and support for Asian/Pacific Islander and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (API LGBTQ) mental health and wellness through public education and outreach efforts, culturally sensitive educational workshops, holistic wellness activities. (Notes from meeting: none)
- Bi+ Affirming Mentorship & Storytelling Lab - Project Description: The “Bi+ Affirming Mentorship and Storytelling Lab” would recruit bi+ high school and college aged youth ages 16-24 and pair them with adult bi+ mentors for a four-day workshop (spanning over two weekends). During the first weekend, attendees will learn about the mental health barriers/gaps in access for bi+ communities in Los Angeles County, explore their identities, find community and connection, build bi+ confidence, and examine and develop strategies to address their personal experiences of bi negativity, biphobia and stigma. (Notes from meeting: consider all service areas)
- Liberation Workshop Series - Project Description: This project will work to reduce barriers to mental health services for BIPOC lesbian, bisexual, queer, and transgender sex workers ages 18+ by (1) providing artistic outlets for participants to practice ceramics, (2) facilitating discussions around mental health barriers and challenges, and (3) connecting them with LACDMH and relevant resources. (Notes from meeting: focus primarily on the lesbian community first as one of the targeted communities needs to be represented and this community did not have another specific proposal, i.e. 50% of the participants identify as lesbian)
- LGBTQIA2S+ Innovation Lab & Fellowship - Project Description: This project will work to reduce mental health access barriers for LGBTQIA2S+ community members ages 18+ by recruiting Fellows from Los Angeles County to meet and develop innovative strategies to violence prevention and barrier reduction. Over the course of Summer 2023, the Fellows will design their approaches and present their ideas to key stakeholders, LACDMH representatives, foundation representatives, and sector leaders. These ideas will then be considered as Capacity Building Project (CBP) proposals for the 2024 fiscal year (voting in approximately August 2023). (Notes from meeting: since this is a more general project, have the Fellows be members of the 6 targeted communities for this fiscal year - API, two-spirit, neurodivergent, Latinx, bisexual, lesbian; also have them be peers/consumers, consider tying in to peer certification; possible outreach to the Youth Fellows from previous year)

- Neurodivergent Voices Album - Project Description: The Neurodivergent Voices Album is a project where up to 12 members of the LGBTQIA2-S Community who identify as neurodiverse will be selected to collaborate on an album centering themes of mental health, healing, resilience, and identity. Each participant will record an original song centering the aforementioned themes. Participants will be made aware of and connected with LACDMH and relevant resources throughout the project. Participants will be selected at the discretion of a selection committee made up of LGBTQIA2-S community leaders. Interested participants must submit a completed demo of an original song by the submission date specified. (Notes from meeting: include individuals ages 64+ as well)
- Proyecto Mariposa Monarca/Project Monarch Butterfly - Project Description: Proyecto Mariposa Monarca will remove culturally self-imposed barriers by rendering accessible intergenerational mental health practices to intersecting migrant and LGBTQIA2S communities. This project's target population is families across generations with different migrant/citizenship statuses and diverse gender identities and sexual orientations. Often, people within these target populations are uninsured or underinsured. As a result, our target population is often unable to access mental health services. Furthermore, existing resources and experts may not be familiar with culturally competent care for the Latine community and LGBTQIA2-S communities. Proyecto Mariposa Monarca will combine traditional cultural practices with therapy self-regulation tools to create a non-traditional peer-based mental health system. Proyecto Mariposa Monarca will also provide financial literacy skills and resources to help support the healing of the target population. (Notes from meeting: explore non cash-based incentive model if needed)
- Storytelling Project Two-Spirit Community - Project Description: Wellness circles for the Two-Spirit Community (include representation from the youth community, elder community, neurodivergent community). 6 individual circles and then a larger circle to all come together (weaving style of talking, weaving stories together)
- Kelly to send out survey for voting members to rank. Discussion regarding two options for current fiscal due to increase in funds - subcommittee can either focus on 3-4 larger scope projects or move forward with all 7 ideas. Will be included as a question in the survey sent to voting members.

General Announcements/Resources

- Mikey shared that August is Black Gay Men's Wellness Month and events are taking place at In the Meantime. Mikey to share flyers via email.
- Bill shared that the Gay Elder Circle is hosting an event on 8/30. Details were shared previously via email.
- Ana shared updates for Q Youth Foundation and will share via email as well.
- Hector shared that on August 29-31st the California LGBT Health and Human Services State Convening is going to be taking place
- Send any other resources to Kelly via email (KeWilkerson@dmh.lacounty.gov) to be sent out to the listserv.

Upcoming Meetings (first Thursday of the month, 2-4pm): 10/6/22, 11/3/22, no meeting in December 2022

[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/>