

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health

Stakeholder Engagement Unit

Black & African Heritage Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC) Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 21, 2022, 2-4 pm

WELCOME

Introductions/Check-In

Co-Chairs: Romalis Taylor and Sade Richardson

Attendees: Ayana Rose, Brenda Kaye Ingram, Carlene Davis, Cleo Ray, Crystal Clark, Erica Melbourne, Harold Turner, Jim the Hatt, Joyce Sales, Keith Coleman, Kevin Collins, LoWanya Young, Marilynn Huffibbler, Martin, MC Harris, Nakeya Fields, Nicole Eden, Nina Womack, Pharoah Mitchell, Phillip Butler, Sabrina Benford, Senait Admassu, Shalae Lewis, Sonara Carter-Barber, and Wendy Cabil

DMH Admin: Angel Baker, Destiny Walker, Jacquelyn Martin, and Kelly Wilkerson

DMH Presenters: Adriana Carrillo, Anna Hernandez, Carolyn Brown, Connie Acosta Castaneda, Crystal Clark, Kathy Moon, Kattie Rodriguez, Dr. Jorge Partida, and Yessenia Valencia,

Approval of Minutes:

- June 16, 2022, Minutes - approved first Wendy Cabil, second by Kevin Collins

DMH Updates

- Angel Baker invites all to attend the upcoming Mental Health Commission on July 28th at 11:00AM. We will have presentations by our finance manager Kimberly Nall on our budget process. We are working to develop an enhanced community planning process. Build trust back again between the community, our leaders, DMH management and training everyone on MHSA. It is critical that you work on those capacity building projects.
- Destiny Walker stated we are right on target, preparing our SOW's for the upcoming fiscal year.

Life Links Resources Book

- The ordering process will begin within the next couple months.

Black Mental Health Task Force: Nakeya Fields/Imani Bradley

- Monthly meetings, every first Monday of each month at 9:30am.
- The Task Force lead work groups, Outreach Work Group and Policy Work Group.
- Empowering Black Families was an initiative to do conversational series out in the community, essentially what is stressing Black communities out and giving a safe space to talk about it.
- Minding our Village Elders Project, which is outreaching directly to Black seniors.
- We are also looking into some grant funding to do technical assistance and capacity building work for other Black-led mental health organizations.
- The Therapeutic Play Foundation won the Golden Sachs Black Women of Impact Funding Grant.
- The biggest impact we have made as Black Mental Health Task Force is bring awareness
- Supervisor Hilda Solis office reached out to the Black Mental Health Task Force to partner with community on outreach for Juneteenth. The Task Force won an award, was featured in a lot of things, made a video, participated in a freedom walk and we put signs up that talked about different facts about maternal health. It was an educational event.

Mindfulness Meditation: Sade Richardson

- Video: (Mental reset: Bans and De-Stress)

Please see transcript for further information Pages 32-34

Update on ARDI and Promoters: Dr. Jorge Partida

- We have the ARDI CEO's initiative led by Dr. Scorza that address racism at all departments of the county.
 - There is an ARDI Advisory Council comprised of 15 employees, very diverse that represent the interest and needs of DMH employees.
 - The ARDI Division will focus on the services that we provide in the community.
 - Training will be provided to our employees such as just culture and other trainings.
 - Working on developing leadership internally in the department, making sure that the staff can get promoted and a clear pathway towards promotion.
 - The United Mental Health Promoters is a wonderful example of leadership development, we are constantly diversifying the voices that are at the table.
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- This program had developed outcomes evaluation and communication.
 - The program currently communicates in 13 anchor languages, to provide support to all the departments stakeholders and clients within the community.
 - Adriana Carillo wants to thank the Black Mental Health Task Force as well as the Black African Heritage UsCC for helping us with our recruitment efforts.
 - We had some projected numbers for each of the eight service areas which are to hire 46 Black African Heritage Mental Health Promoters throughout the service area. Right now, we're at 22. In general, we have about 150 Mental Health Promoters right now, countywide probably a bit less, because we lost quite a few.
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Capacity Building Project Ideas: Kelly Wilkerson

- The Black Maternal Health and The Strengthening Community Connections, procurement and ISD are in the process of finalizing the purchase orders.
 - The Seeker Project will be sending that out for solicitation. Next week I should have an update.
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22-23 Capacity Building Project Proposals (SOW Status): Kelly Wilkerson

- The new projects: Empowering Black Student Wellness Leaders, Peer-to-Peer Network and The Brothers Keeper Program, the statements of work for these projects are currently being drafted.
 - Due to additional funding, first we will focus on the first three SOW's and if there are additional funds available, we will move forward to the next proposed project. BAH will be kept updated.
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Youth Group: Angel Baker

- The Youth Group is progressing.
 - It would be to our advantage to start with youth that are already within our system.
 - Its was decided that there will be 16 youth in total, two for each of the UsCC's; one for the Mental Health Commission and then one for another group that we're going to bring together.
 - The Youth program will be similar to the one developed by the Board of Supervisors.
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Discussion on upcoming topics for BAH Subcommittee: Sade Richardson

- Creating a calendar to discuss topics, issues, and possible guest speakers for upcoming meetings
 - ❖ Barriers to Black/African Mental Health
 - ❖ Depression and Anxiety in the Black/African Communities
 - ❖ Black/African Masculinity and Mental Health
 - ❖ Substance Abuse for Coping
 - ❖ Homelessness and Mental Illness
 - ❖ Health effects of Loneliness, or Social Disadvantages, or Loss and Grief
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Report on Minding our Village Elders: Nakeya Fields

- Presentation was emailed to the group
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Community Engagement (Public Comment): No Discussion

Announcements:

- SALT 6 is hosting a backpack giveaway, Saturday, August 6, 2022, from 10:00am – 2:00pm at Earvin Magic Johnson Park. There will be many vendors there, interactive activities and health activities.
 - NAMI Urban Los Angeles is putting on their annual Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month event here on June 24th. That's on Sunday. It's going to be from 2:00pm - 4:00pm. The registration, everything is on our website at namiurbanla.org. And the following weekend on the 30th, we're going to be taking it to the streets in Leimert Park. And closing out the month was another in-person event and there's going to be entertainment and food. And we are partnering with an artist group to provide entertainment. And that will be at the Community Bill's Garden on 43rd in Degnan on July 30th.
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- San Gabriel Valley AAIMM CAT has received funding from City of Hope and the Kaiser UCLA Health Equity Grant. The maternal mental health support group will be able to be continued and led by Therapeutic Play Foundation.
 - Therapeutic Play Foundation will be hosting a back-to-school event, tentative date August 29, 2022 more information to follow.
 - This Saturday show is the 14th Annual OG popper's picnic in Carson at Dolphin Park.
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Upcoming Meetings (third Thursday of the month, 2-4pm):
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#
