

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH  
ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS  
Latino UsCC SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES**

October 18, 2022  
2:00PM – 4:00PM

**Attendees:** Belia Lopez, Betty Marín, Betty Mendoza, Bianca Gallegos, Carmen Perez, Daniela Hernandez, Eric Hernandez, Felipe Ocampo Jr, Gabriela Gonzalez, Gabriela Velasquez, Gloria Leiva, Irma Martinez, Irma Velasquez, Josof Sanchez, Laura Kerr, Luz Hernandez, Maria Arauco, Maria Ortiz, Maria Palacios, Maria Semola, Maritza Lebron, Martha Cota, Martha Ojeda, Martin Almanza, Matilde Gonzalez, Paco Retana, Patricia Veliz Macal, Rosario Moreno, Samantha Casco, Suyapa Umanzor, Yue Hua Xu

**DMH Staff:** Dr. Luis Guzman

**Interpreters / CART:** Claudia & Lucy Ferraez Rivero / JoAnn

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions – Subcommittee Members</b>	<b>A. Housekeeping, Attendance</b> Each attendee (On Microsoft TEAMS and on phone) introduced themselves
<b>Review of Meeting Minutes</b>	<b>A. Motion to approve minutes made by Irma Velasquez and seconded by Maria Arauco</b>
<b>Community Concerns Tracking Worksheet</b>	<b>A. Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Dr. Guzman provided brief overview of Tracking Sheet for new community stakeholders and answered questions</li> <li>ii. Last eight (8) months of concerns were logged and shared with meeting participants including the total amount of recommendations/feedback during that time period</li> <li>iii. Community Concerns on tracking worksheet will be translated into Spanish by Dr. Guzman for monolingual Spanish-speaking stakeholders</li> </ul>

- iv. Key concerns/feedback was identified from overall list and discussed in further detail
- v. Community discussed the importance of desegregating data from current category of Latino into 1) Mexican, 2) Central American, 3) South American, 4) Caribbean, and 5) Other / fill-in
- vi. Importance of need for data of services to Latinos broken down by Supervisorial District and with ability to filter by different demographic filters for community to easily be able to see gaps in services
- vii. Customer Services and quality of services provided to Latino community is uneven across Service Areas and MH Clinics
- viii. Community member requested tracking sheet be posted on the website for transparency and accountability reasons
- ix. Other key concern of focus from tracking sheet was the demand from the community that the quantity of Latinos be reflected in the overall workforce but particularly in DMH Leadership, especially by employees that come from the Latino community throughout Los Angeles County
- x. Housing for Latino community members with SMI or with children with SED was final item identified as priority from tracking worksheet
- xi. Los Angeles County and LAC DMH need to prioritize Latino community when it comes to homeless services and support
- xii. Current definition of homelessness creates bias and inequity against Latino community, so DMH is urged to use culturally

	<p>appropriate strategies and plan to address homelessness equitably</p>
<p><b>Bilingual/Bicultural Workforce</b></p>	<p><b>A. Discussion/Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health has not prioritized the Latino community to share about the loan forgiveness programs the Department and other government entities have which serves as a barrier for Latino students because graduate school is unaffordable</li> <li>ii. Need for DMH to support employees, especially clinicians who want to improve their bilingual Spanish-speaking skills to help address bilingual workforce shortage</li> <li>iii. Latino community members, including recent graduates are applying for LAC DMH jobs but becoming discouraged by the complexity of the application process and minimal to no support; Recommendation is for LA County to begin recruit students in graduate schools and offer them jobs before they graduate</li> <li>iv. Average time for applicants to get hired by LAC is 6 to 9 months leaving Latinos at a disadvantage because most can't afford to wait</li> </ul>
<p><b>MHSA Stakeholder Retreat</b></p>	<p><b>A. Retreat Recap</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Betty Mendoza shared about the MHSA 2-day retreat</li> <li>ii. Concern was shared at the retreat that the Department has gone through the process of restructuring and reorganizing the MHSA process and structure with minimal benefit to the Latino community or other stakeholders</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iii. Diverse stakeholders shared worry that there will be limited follow-through and accountability</li> <li>iv. Minimal focus during retreat on Latinos only get 38% of services (59,791 Latinos served) but having 334,048 Latinos do not have mental health services provided when they needed them</li> <li>v. Day 1 of retreat focused on repairing rupture between the community and DMH; Day 2 focused on setting the foundation for what LAC DMH MHSA process and structure should look like</li> <li>vi. Kalene Gilbert, LCSW will be in charge of the MHSA unit for LAC DMH and Darlesh Horn, DPA will be in charge of working directly with community stakeholders on MHSA</li> <li>vii. Community was provided with specific ways within the LAC DMH MHSA process that the community could provide feedback to the Mental Health Commission and BOS</li> </ul>
<p><b>Latino Community Outreach/Rapid Response</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A.</b> Need for the Latino community in coordination with DMH develop a rapid response outreach plan to let community members across the County know about key events and information</li> <li><b>B.</b> Housing crisis and homelessness is becoming a significant issue in the Latino community but not receiving much help from DMH or the County</li> <li><b>C.</b> Community discussing engaging in target outreach to involve more keyholders</li> <li><b>D.</b> Idea was proposed to identify current DMH stakeholders from different areas of the County to represent the Latino community in their respective Service Areas</li> </ul>
<p><b>DMH/Community Announcements:</b></p>	<p><b>Items Not on the Agenda</b></p>

**A. DMH Updates**

- i. UsCC Youth Advisory Council will be rolling out shortly with more information to be provided at the December meeting
- ii. December will begin the next round of capacity building projects for the Latino UsCC

**B. Community Announcements**

- i. Generations in Action will be having their very first altars for the dead. It's a multicultural and international event and free of charge
- ii. Alliances for the Traditional Arts are going to have a series of workshops focused on using cultural healing practices for mental health
- iii. Some are going to be online, and others will be in-person
- iv. Vaccinate all 58 and LAC DPH are offering grants to communities to do COVID-19 outreach in Spanish or any indigenous language so we have the resources in Spanish. Grant limit is \$5,000 and if your project is finalized, organizations can apply once again

**Next Meeting**

**November 15, 2022, from 2:00 pm – 4:00pm**  
**Virtual Venue: Microsoft TEAMS**