

**Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Stakeholder Engagement Unit
Black & African Heritage Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC) Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 20, 2022, 2-4 pm**

WELCOME

Introductions/Check-In

Co-Chairs: Romalis Taylor and Sade Richardson

Attendees: Kirsten Pannell, Luis Guzman, Mc Harris, Nicole Edun, Pharoah Mitchell, Jason Betts, Dario G, K. DeVon, Yue Hua Xu, Rosario Ribleza, Nina Womack, Charles Osiris, Carey Grier, Fireflies.ai Notetaker Black M, Wendy Cabil, Carlene Davis, Shalae Lewis, Joyce Sales, Senait Admassu, Dr. Erica Melbourne, Nakeya Fields

DMH Admin: Angel Baker, and Donald Daughtry

DMH Presenters: Dr. Karen Gunn, Dr. Luis Guzman

Approval of Minutes:

- September 15, 2022, Minutes approved by “speaker” and second by Nakeya Fields
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DMH Updates

- Establishing a youth program for each UsCC, identifying 2 youth to develop program
 - One youth from each UsCC as representative on a youth advisory Council
 - Working at the county level and other Youth Advisory Council's and with LACO and directly with the schools
 - TAY 16 - 24 or 25
 - More information at next meeting
 - Initial year, youths already working with DMH prevention program will be selected from each UsCC, once trained, they recruitment efforts will open up to identify youth
 - Peer advisory committee (from the community): 15 members and one alternative to be part for the first year
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Life Links Resources Book

- Expanding to include SPA 1, 6 & 8
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Presentation on Life Links Data and Development: Dr. Karen Gunn

- Life Links first edition established in 2011, designed for SPA 6, which had the highest percentage of Black or Attorney Advisors residents, but also extended outside of SPA 6
 - It was intended to provide useful lists of community resources (over 300 listed), including mutual aid organizations, agencies that provide diplomatic assistance for African and Caribbean immigrants, some community-based organizations that do a variety of different things, address domestic violence, and housing referrals
 - *Please refer to PowerPoint presentation for additional information*
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Future meetings, dates & times: Angel Baker

- With a shift in populations in Los Angeles County, there is a need to reach a larger audience and we were missing this population meeting at this current time
 - To have better collaborations between the UsCC's and the SALTs. Overlapping of time of meetings caused members not to be able to attend.
 - Date and time change effective next meeting to first Thursday of every month from 10am-12pm, beginning November 3, 2022
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Update for 21-22 Capacity Building Projects: Angel Baker

- Selected projects must represent both the African and Caribbean communities and African American
 - Need to pull up project that represents the African and Caribbean communities and move forward with it or modify 3 of the projects to include the other community in those projects
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Community Voice:

- BAH UsCC email
- Platform for any community members to have a voice. Send email with topic you wish to present to BAHUsCC@dmh.lacounty.gov. You have 2 minutes to present on your issues and concerns. Include your contact information (name, telephone number etc.)

Would You Like to be a Volunteer Presenter?:

- Providers or community support groups, agencies or people that want to present on topics relevant to the Black African community i.e., community engagement efforts, mental health social supports and concerns
- Submit presentation concept to Liaison Jacqueline at BAHUsCC@dmh.lacounty.gov
- In Subject line put “BAH Presenter”

Community Engagement (Public Comment):

- Luis Guzman: Taste of Soul in Crenshaw, past weekend, about 2000 Black and African Heritage and DMH members to come give their opinion and experiences in mental health and what is needed
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Community Event Announcements

- Nicole Edun, Therapeutic Play Foundation:
 - Black History Month mental health summit 2/20 - 24, expect to host about 400 people, mental health workshops, psychoeducation and 2 community town halls, need volunteers and help with different programs, anyone interested in being a leader Black mental health task force, reach out. Voting takes place at our January meeting
Will email flier
 - Free clothing giveaway and gifts for children ages 0 - 12. Reach out. Deadline is Monday, October 24, 2022 Sign a release. Send a picture of your child and demographic information.
- Joyce Sales, SALT 6 Co-Chair:
 - Annual holiday Christmas resource giveaway fair, Saturday morning, December 3, 2022, accepting donations, looking for providers open to donate a tree & ornaments contact Salt6@dmh.lacounty.gov, also anyone wanting to donate toys, books etc.
 - Los Angeles Black Worker Center website, today from 530 - 630 or 730pm, regarding November 8th election, they will reveal and provide a better understanding of the propositions on the ballot measure in November.

Upcoming Meetings (third Thursday of the month, 2-4pm):

12/1/22

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

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