

**Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health  
Stakeholder Engagement Unit  
API Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
October 24, 2022, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

**Present: JR Kuo, Khathy Hoang, Minji Kim, Naomi Mizushima, Pastor Peter Kim, Richer San, Dr. Rocco Cheng, Dr. Sheila Wu, Sithea San, Sokthea Phay, Vickie Xu, Norio Iwahori, Sophia Pai, Sun Lim, Maria Tan, Paul Kang, Tuan D. Nguyen, Mariel Magsaysay, Pamela Inaba, Michelle Wong, Anna Lee, Mariko Kahn, Lindsay**

**Cambodian Interpreter – Bo Uce  
Korean Interpreter – Sun Lim  
DMH Admin – Alan Wu**

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subcommittee Members, Housekeeping, Attendance, Co-Chairs</li> </ul>
<b>Review of Meeting Minutes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion by Sithea San to approve and seconded by Emily Wu Truong</li> </ul>
<b>Capacity Building Project Update</b>	<p>Richer San and Alan Wu shared about the retreat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brainstorming and getting to know each other</li> <li>• Comfortable to make sure everyone able to express their opinions freely</li> <li>• Had 12 groups to share our own personal stories and background of how we get involved in mental health</li> <li>• Joined in larger groups to share commonalities in our stories and backgrounds</li> <li>• Another group activity on exploring how notable and/or turning points in our personal lives at the global and in the mental health system in LA County shapes and impacts the work we do</li> <li>• Focused on understanding our past and present and how we can work together toward the future</li> <li>• Next Friday will be important because it will focus on identifying what worked and challenges and developing solutions together with the DMH leadership present</li> <li>• To advocate for subcommittee Richer asked members to forward him any concerns and issues to bring up at retreat next Friday to help prioritize needs and prepare for next budget cycle</li> <li>• DMH hosted the in-person County-wide retreat with 60 attendees from all SAs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ FBAC, CCC, HN, SALT, UsCC, and MHC co-chairs</li> <li>▪ HN, CCC, SALT, UsCC liaisons</li> <li>▪ DMH staff and managers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retreat attendees comprised of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ FBAC, CCC, HN, SALT, UsCC, and MHC co-chairs</li> <li>▪ HN, CCC, SALT, UsCC liaisons</li> <li>▪ DMH staff and managers</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Richer reminded us goal to bring services to our API community especially with the disparity in access to services based on the API demographic distribution.</li> <li>• Improve relationship and collaboration between DMH and the stakeholder community</li> </ul>
<p><b>Retreat Update</b></p>	<p>Alan Wu reported four capacity building projects were selected based on the voting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using Nature and Culture as Tools to Improve Mental Health</li> <li>• Storytelling Theater for Healing and Social Justice</li> <li>• Asian Pacific Islander Recovery Talk</li> <li>• API Community-Based Festival</li> </ul> <p>Alan shared the general timeline for the capacity building projects and gave a summary of what happens at each step of timeline.</p> <p>Richer mentioned if one’s project is not selected you have an opportunity to resubmit at the next round.</p> <p>Richer expressed and advocated for increased funding to \$500,000 because API community much larger and very diverse.</p> <p>Alan indicated that the descriptions of all the projects are in the July and August minutes.</p>
<p><b>DMH Updates</b></p>	<p>Richer expressed the need to do more outreach and invite friends to join API UsCC.</p> <p>Richer shared being part of this subcommittee helped him to learn, grow and network with many people in DMH.</p> <p>Emily suggests a grassroots approach in outreach to meet people where they are and having a flyer for our subcommittee would be helpful in recruiting more people.</p> <p>Flyer tells who we are, what we offer, meeting times and contact person.</p> <p>Sokthea Phay offered to help create flyer once contents are completed.</p>
<p><b>Open Discussion on non-agenda items</b></p>	<p>Rocco gave an update on his project, Our Stories and Our Journey on Mental Health Recovery and Resilience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purpose to help us better understand the challenge associated with mental health condition</li> <li>• Utilize personal and powerful stories and testimonies to share recovery journey via online Zoom video interviews in their own native API language</li> <li>• Interviews used to inspire and encourage others to seek help</li> <li>• Learn what helps and what works</li> <li>• Address literacy issues</li> </ul> <p>Emily will be speaking at the North American Taiwanese Women’s Association this coming weekend.</p> <p>Emily expressed concerns regarding the low pay for mental health promoters and peers.</p>

Funding and resource equity issues where API diverse population demographic does not reflect proportionately to the funding and mental health resources received.

Rocco indicated the true magnitude of mental health issues are largely masked and hidden due to the tremendous stigma in the API community which explains the huge disparity in resource and funding allocation.

Melisa shared the need to disaggregate the API data to reflect the many subgroups not represented and the DMH clinics were engaged in this effort and wondering if there were any updates.

**Upcoming Meeting: November 28, 2022**