

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

November 15, 2022
2:00PM – 4:00PM

Attendees: Alexis Godinez, Belia Lopez, Bianca Gallegos, Britany Flores, Daniela Hernandez, Eric Hernandez, Eugenia Cervantes, Gabriela Velasquez, Gloria Leiva, Irma Velasquez, Josof Sanchez, Maria Arauco, Martha Ortiz, Martin Almanza, Norma Ruiz, Paco Retana, Patricia Veliz Macal, Sara Mijares, Suyapa Umanzor, Veronica Monge, Yolanda Becerra-Jones

DMH Staff: Dr. Luis Guzman

Interpreters / CART: Claudia & Lucy Ferraez Rivero / JoAnn

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
Welcome & Introductions – Subcommittee Members	A. Housekeeping, Attendance Each attendee (On Microsoft TEAMS and on phone) introduced themselves
Review of Meeting Minutes	A. Tabled
Community Concerns Tracking Worksheet	A. Priority List <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Key concerns were further identified and DMH response to those concerns was shared ii. Key concerns included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DMH needs to be disaggregated by Country of Origin for the Latino community or in four categories (Mexico, Central American, South America, Caribbean) ▪ Suggestion for immigration-related information to be gathered (and safeguarded) that is clinically important, but that process

needs to be collaborative with the community and staff be trained appropriately

- DMH workforce and leadership should be reflective of the County population which is 50% Latino
- Uneven access and quality of services in different areas of LA County for the Latino community
- Severe shortage of bilingual and bicultural psychologists to serve the Latino community; DMH needs to recruit
- DMH needs to be consistent with calls for "Equity" as there is an inequitable distribution of resources and services against Latinos (bias)
- Prioritize homelessness and housing instability in the Latino community by DMH and LAHSA

iii. Only one of the key issues identified have been addressed by LAC DMH but no progress has been made on any of them since last three-year plan was adopted

iv. Severe and chronic workforce shortage and no existing mental health pipeline so DMH needs to prioritize this

B. Potential Solutions

- i. Homelessness often looks differently in Latino community including living in cars, living with family members, in garages, etc. especially when mental health issues are involved so DMH needs to consider cultural factors when addressing homelessness/housing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Recommendation for DMH to be intentional about recruiting bilingual speakers from the Latino community across LA County iii. Motion called for DMH to work with Latino community in the coming months and put together a budget for next fiscal year (FY) that represents and accounts for the needs and challenges the Latino community has shared about in the last year. iv. Request for funding allocation to be proportional to the needs of the Latino community and the number of Latinos needing services v. Comprehensive Needs Assessment focused on Latino Mental Health by DMH to understand full impact of COVID-19 on the community's mental health vi. DMH and community mental health clinics need to prioritize hiring of bilingual and bicultural clinicians to address key barrier to access of quality mental health services vii. Request that LAC DMH not use the term Latinx as this term was imposed on the Latino community and does not honor/respect Latino culture or Spanish language
<p>Bilingual/Bicultural Workforce Motion</p>	<p>A. Discussion/Data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Community member expressed concern that the County can't retain people already working for the County because there are no promotions

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Schools like USC, UCLA, or the schools who graduate more doctors and therapists in all areas should require at least one semester or year of classes like Spanish, Chinese or, you know, something colloquial. They are sensitive and part of the cultural diversity. iii. Kaiser offers \$100,000 a year for therapists to be there. They're serving different communities and make it harder to compete for Latino therapist/psychologists <p>B. Motion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. LAC DMH Latino stakeholders would like Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health to work with community mental health organizations, high schools, community colleges, etc. to develop the mental health labor force for the Latino community ii. LAC DMH needs to work with schools, Kaiser, Blue Cross, and the private sector to start developing a bilingual mental health workforce pipeline because there is severe and chronic shortage of bicultural and bilingual therapists resulting in LAC DMH not providing mental health services to 334,048 Latinos that needed them in FY 2020-2021. iii. Motion made by Maria Arauco and seconded by Patricia Veliz-Macal. Latino stakeholder present voted unanimously to approve the motion asking LAC DMH and Director Dr. Lisa Wong to formally respond to the motion.
Latino Community Outreach/Rapid Response	A. Tabled due to lack of time
DMH/Community Announcements:	Items Not on the Agenda

A. DMH Updates

- i. None at this time

B. Community Announcements

- i. Britany Flores on behalf of Operation Street Kidz is recruiting teens/youth from 16 – 24 years of age to participate in a Latino capacity building project focused on giving Latino youth the opportunity through art to express themselves and express their mental health and understand problems in the schools
- ii. They need 20 youth who want to share that story so they can record and put it on social media to share with other youth
- iii. On December 10th Generations in Action will be having a posada and interactive workshop at the LA library for intergenerational families. People will learn about the scientific meaning of gratitude.
- iv. Mayan Foundation invites people to watch Wakanda Forever. Six Maya Yucateco adaptations were used in the movie. It's a social movie but is being promoted because half of the movie was spoken in Maya Yucateco Yucatán
- v. Eric Hernandez from SIPA shared information about their upcoming toy drive on December 10th
- vi. The rescue center is inviting people to an event for Thanksgiving. There will be food and games and will provide emotional support

Next Meeting

TBD from 2:00 pm – 4:00pm
Virtual Venue: Microsoft TEAMS