

**Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Stakeholder Engagement Unit**

**Black & African Heritage Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC) Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 3, 2022, 10 am-12 pm**

WELCOME

Introductions/Check-In

Co-Chairs: Romalis Taylor and Sade Richardson

Attendees: Andria McFerson, Hector Ramirez, Carey Grier, Pharaoh Mitchell, Brenda Kaye Ingram, Karen Gunn, Nakeya T. Fields, Joyce Sales, Philip Butler, Kimberly, Wendy Cabil

DMH Admin: Angel Baker, Jacqueline Martin, Kelly Wilkerson

DMH Presenters: James Coomes

Approval of Minutes:

- October 20, 2022, Minutes approved: Nakeya Fields Seconded: Pharaoh Mitchell

DMH Updates

- Executive Assistant for the Mental Health Commission office has been identified, Kiana Fuentes. She will start within 30 to 60 days
- Stakeholder groups will no longer be a part of the responsibility of the executive assistant, but will now be assigned to other managers where focus of work they are doing best fits
- The SALTs will be a part of the MHSA unit reporting to Lead Manager, Kaylene Gilbert
- Community Planning Process is moving along, final meeting November 18th

Life Links Resources Book

- Expanding to include SPA 1, 6 & 8
- Approval received to move forward with Life Links, to include all UsCCs, if they have an interest
- BAH SOW being developed, solicitation pending
- Create and send form to focus groups to find out what the needs are

Presentation by SPA 1 District Chief: James Coomes

- City of Lancaster alone is the third largest -- has the third largest Black community, both percentage wise of the total population and in total numbers
- 65 percent of the kids (overrepresented with children of color) in foster care live in the Antelope Valley
- What is the plan is to reach out to the Black community?
- Focus on the needs of the community, but provide the resources and supports to the staff as well

Update for 21-22 Capacity Building Projects: Kelly Wilkerson

- Artificial Intelligence Conversations Project: is in the second phase (participant recruitments for the focus groups), beta testing the digital AI conversation platform
- Black Maternal Health and Early Childhood Intervention Empowerment Project: in its 3rd phase, cohort meetings are being conducted, 1st cohort meeting 11/3
- Strengthening Community Connections for Black Men and Boys Project: in the second phase, the distribution of the community survey is happening, also member recruitment for cohort

Update for 22-23 Capacity Building Projects: Angel Baker

- Spoke with the leaders for each of the 3 projects to obtain clarity to develop SOWs
- Each proposer receptive to project representing the whole population that this UsCC is representing
- Peer to Peer Network project was covering an activity already put into work by DMH, working to revise proposal

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BAH Flyer Update: Sade Richardson

- Reveal of the updated BAH flyers based on input from last month meeting
- Flyer has clickable links if sent electronically and links are typed out for printed copies
- Suggestion to add seniors being aided, someone helping homeless and someone with a disability

Community Engagement (Public Comment):

Community Event Announcements

- Nakeya Fields
 - Mom's Giving, November 30th, cooking class at 6:00pm, mom's giving at 8:00 PM
 - The Black Mental Health Task Force quarterly meeting, January 12, 2023
- Andria McFerson
 - Board of Governors meeting, November 3 at 1pm,
<https://www.lacare.org/sites/default/files/20221103%20BoG%20Mtg%20Agenda.pdf>
- Wendy Cabil
 - LA County on Disabilities Commission meet 3rd Wednesdays monthly (1-3)PM

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

1/5/23

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

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