

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
American Indian / Alaska Native (AI/AN) UsCC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2023

2pm – 4pm via Microsoft TEAMS

Present: Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood, Farrah Ferris, Hector Ramirez, Gabriel Pimentel, Bridget Garcia Vera, Elena Nourrie, Jessica Mosher, Ravena Soto, Wildflower Ontiveros, Eva Powless, Bernice Mascher, Charlotte Lujan, Yue Hua Xu (Vicky)

DMH Admin: Kelly Wilkerson

Presenter: Salma Perez (We Speak)

Agenda Items	Discussion
Welcome, Prayer & Introductions	Meeting opened with prayer. Members were asked to introduce themselves.
In Memoriam – Jim Miller	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sylvia shared regarding the passing of Jim Miller who created the documentary the Dakota 38. • Subcommittee watched two short clips from the documentary.
Meeting Minutes	March 2023 minutes were reviewed and approved (first – Elena Nourrie, second – Gabriel Pimentel).
DMH Updates – Dr. Darlesh Horn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Darlesh Horn, Division Chief-MHSA Administration, provided updates related to the MHSA stakeholder platform and community planning process, including the timelines. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Update provided regarding the most recent meeting on 3/30, recommendations that were approved by executive management were presented to stakeholders at this meeting. Everything recommended by stakeholders was approved by management. ○ Next step will be board approval, and then MHSA Admin will reach out to proposers. ○ Darlesh to provide a calendar of upcoming MHSA events at the May UsCC meeting. • Darlesh shared regarding the upcoming Faith-Based Conference taking place on 5/23 at the LA Convention Center from 9am-4pm. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Registration will open next week. ○ They are planning a land acknowledgment at conference – suggestions related to this are welcome. ○ Darlesh also asked for feedback on how they can honor the AI/AN experience at the conference. • Darlesh will return at the May meeting to have a longer discussion regarding the community’s needs and explore opportunities for deeper engagement in the MHSA process.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The subcommittee discussed creating an Ad Hoc group – Kelly to send an email. ● For more information, contact mhsadmin@dmh.lacounty.gov or dhorn@dmh.lacounty.gov.
Co-Chair Report Out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Co-chairs updated the subcommittee regarding the monthly leadership meeting and the desire to continue to collaborate, in particular around capacity building project opportunity. ● Update regarding the Women’s Herstory Event on 4/25 in person at DMH Headquarters. ● During a recent CA Native Vote Project power building summit, triaging of AI/AN community members was discussed (i.e. Native community member calls in and is routed to a Native representative) – recommendation to connect those folks to 988 to share this strategy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider writing letter or creating petition to express support ○ Didi Hirsch currently implementing similar strategy ● ICCTM Learning Collaborative update from Charlotte Lujan and Hector Ramirez.
We Speak – Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Salma Perez, Alumni and youth organizer from Anahuacalmecac School, gave a presentation regarding the We Speak program. ● They recently received a California Community Foundation Grant focused on language rights and developed the We Speak program, which is an Indigenous Language Rights and Resurgence Initiative. ● Working with AI/AN youth to learn languages and also learn advocacy skills. ● For more information, contact @Anahuacalmecac on Instagram ● Interest form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1FQVshT39QMnLWLIRLCS8z11aPCjHtLQ9ADFxN3NC2Xs/prefill ● Teen Vogue article: My Indigenous School in Los Angeles Affirmed My Identity and Changed My Life Teen Vogue
Capacity Building Projects	<p><u>Previously shared ideas:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sustainability/garden project (H.E.A.L. healthy eating and living - Iva) – community garden ● Film festival – native youth or filmmakers, independent ● Bazaar/community fair – series of them throughout the year, beading and art ● Language/cultural immersion project ● Recorded stories project – interviews of Native people <p><u>Newer ideas:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Two-spirit focused project, in particular TAY community members (meeting space, resources, housing, employment, sex trafficking, education, criminal justice) ● Elder mental health support project ● Native youth classes that lead into film – focus on mental health (media workshop series), connect with Illuminative ● Jessica-Healing the Soul Wound (book) – project focused on suicide in Native communities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ History mental health, bring in a Native mental health perspective on how to approach it, include ideas/journey, end is necessary, rebirth, life springs forth, etc. ● Food as medicine project (sage, herbs, sweetgrass, etc.) – connected to garden project ● Intimate partner violence, MMIW, domestic violence, child abuse – awareness days <p><u>Recommendations/Notes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Incorporate elders in all projects ● Who shared ideas? Go back to connect with original proposer ● Connect with Latino UsCC co-chairs regarding projects that are inclusive of community members that are indigenous to Central/South America, Mexico ● Tell history of mission systems – California native history, developed into a curriculum – used in schools for students and teachers, increase cultural competency and more culturally congruent, increase awareness and understanding, add mental health component ● Explore erasure of AI/AN community, informing community of their rights, inaccurate data re: AI/AN in EQRO ● Revisit MHSA ideas that were previously developed/shared mid-February ● Look into CalAIM funding – could be used for these types of ideas, reimbursement for traditional practices
Community Announcements & Resources & Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Send any resources to Kelly via email (KeWilkerson@dmh.lacounty.gov) to be sent out to the listserv.
Closing Prayer	Meeting closed with Prayer.
Audio Recording	All meeting minutes are available on the DMH website: https://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mhsa/uscc/american-indian-alaska-native-ai-an-uscc/american-indian-alaska-native-ai-an-uscc-meeting-minutes/
Next Meetings:	<p><u>Next Meetings (first Wednesday of the month, all meetings 2-4pm):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5/3/23, 6/7/23, 7/5/23, 8/2/23, 9/6/23, 10/4/23, 11/1/23, 12/6/23 <p>Join Microsoft Teams Meeting; 323-776-6996, Conference ID: 806 867 419# CART is provided for all meetings: www.streamtext.net/player?event=UsCC-AIAN</p>