

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

July 12, 2023

2pm – 4pm via Microsoft TEAMS

**Co-Chairs Present:** Shannon Rivers, Farrah Ferris  
**Members Present:** Hector Ramirez, Nikki Crow, Bridget Garcia Vera, Elena Nourrie, Jessica Mosher, Eva Powless, McKenna Belgarde, Carrie Johnson, Susan Lowe, Charlotte Lujan, Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood, Belinda Najera, Angela Trenado  
**DMH Admin Present:** Kelly Wilkerson, Mirtala Parada Ward

Agenda Items	Discussion
<b>Welcome, Prayer &amp; Introductions</b>	Meeting opened with prayer. Members were asked to introduce themselves.
<b>Meeting Minutes</b>	June 2023 minutes were reviewed and approved (first – Farrah Ferris, second – Elena Nourrie).
<b>Co-Chair Report Out</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-chairs updated the subcommittee regarding the Community Planning Process currently taking place, including MHSA planning.</li> <li>• Currently smaller ad hoc groups are being developed as part of this effort. These include: community health workers, housing/homelessness, peer specialists, service providers, veterans, etc.</li> <li>• Farrah also shared regarding a survey that was sent out by MHSA Administration where American Indian/Alaska Native was not included as a race category. This feedback was shared during the most recent CLT meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup> and follow up is expected.</li> <li>• Farrah updated the subcommittee regarding ICWA being upheld.</li> </ul>
<b>Birth Trauma Awareness– Presentation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Susan Lowe presented regarding Birth Trauma Awareness including definitions and common risk factors.</li> <li>• Goals included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discuss the trope of birth trauma and its connection to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).</li> <li>○ Raise awareness among community members, so we can better understand and support those who have experienced traumatic births.</li> <li>○ Discuss its impact on individuals.</li> <li>○ Find ways to be proactive and offer support.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Recognize the signs and know when someone needs help.</li> </ul>
<b>AI/AN Youth Academy Project – Presentation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Nikki Crow from United American Indian Involvement presented regarding the AI/AN Youth Academy capacity building project that they completed.</li> <li>● Final summary can be found at: <a href="#">AI-ANYouthAcademy-FinalSummary</a></li> <li>● Final presentation can be found at: <a href="#">AIANYouthAcademyPresentation.pdf</a></li> <li>● For more information, contact Nikki at <a href="mailto:ncrow@uaii.org">ncrow@uaii.org</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>AI/AN Mental Health Summit – Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Kelly provided an update to the subcommittee that Dr. Robert Byrd and Mirtala Parada Ward were in discussions with Executive Management and MHS Administration regarding funding options. We will be meeting with MHS Administration on 7/25 as well to discuss options.</li> <li>● The subcommittee discussed the possibility of exploring dates at the beginning of 2024 versus trying to host the Summit in November of this year.</li> <li>● Mirtala shared regarding ARDI initiatives including regularly scheduled culturally focused events, including this Summit.</li> <li>● Dr. Darlesh Horn offered to provide updates at the August meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>Diversity &amp; Multicultural Calendar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sylvia lead a discussion with the subcommittee members regarding dates to include in the Cultural Competency Multicultural and Diversity Calendar: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ December 26<sup>th</sup>, 1862 – Dakota 38, largest mass execution in US history</li> <li>○ December 29<sup>th</sup>, 1890 – Wounded Knee Massacre</li> <li>○ June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1924 – Indian Citizenship Act signed into law</li> <li>○ November 20<sup>th</sup>, 1969 to June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1971 – Native American occupation of Alcatraz</li> <li>○ August 11<sup>th</sup>, 1978 – The American Indian Religious Freedom Act signed into law</li> <li>○ November 8<sup>th</sup>, 1978 – Indian Child Welfare Act signed into law</li> <li>○ December 14<sup>th</sup>, 1985 – Wilma Mankiller elected first female Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation</li> <li>○ September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007 – Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the General Assembly</li> <li>○ <u>Future additions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pow Wows</li> <li>▪ Capacity Building Project related events</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>Community Announcements &amp; Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Send any resources to Kelly via email (<a href="mailto:KeWilkerson@dmh.lacounty.gov">KeWilkerson@dmh.lacounty.gov</a>) to be sent out to the listserv.</li> </ul>
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Meeting closed with Prayer.
<b>Audio Recording</b>	<p><b>All meeting minutes are available on the DMH website:</b> <a href="https://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mhsa/uscc/american-indian-alaska-native-ai-an-uscc/american-indian-alaska-native-ai-an-uscc-meeting-minutes/">https://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mhsa/uscc/american-indian-alaska-native-ai-an-uscc/american-indian-alaska-native-ai-an-uscc-meeting-minutes/</a></p>
<b>Next Meetings:</b>	<p><b><u>Next Meetings (first Wednesday of the month, all meetings 2-4pm):</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8/2/23, 9/6/23, 10/4/23, 11/1/23, 12/6/23</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Join Microsoft Teams Meeting</a>; 323-776-6996, Conference ID: 806 867 419#  CART is provided for all meetings: <a href="http://www.streamtext.net/player?event=UsCC-AIAN">www.streamtext.net/player?event=UsCC-AIAN</a></p>