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Ukulele Mass Appeal Event

By Ebony Campbell

On Tuesday, June 21, 2016, the LACDMH Downtown Mental Health Center (DMHC) Wellness Program, along with Make Music LA, held a concert in the skid row community entitled “Ukulele Mass Appeal Event with Brit Rodriguez.” Nahed Guirguis, Program Head at DMHC, welcomed clients who attended the concert.

Brit Rodriguez gave a soulful live performance while giving a ukulele lesson to the consumers. Ms. Rodriguez taught a handful of consumers the different cords and then how to play songs like "You Are My Sunshine," "Itsy Bitsy Spider" and "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." She taught that it is possible to play almost any song with the c-chord. Ms. Rodriguez also explained how the c-chord is generally used in happy songs and the a-minor in sad songs. Those without a ukulele were not left out; all others participated by clapping, humming and/or singing. Then consumers were instructed to hand off their ukulele to another person and she went over the lesson one more time. After the ukulele concert/lesson, Gary Gamponia played a set on guitar with backup vocals by the consumers and staff. The event ended with the song “Blue Moon.”

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The event was a great success; attendees were intrigued and eager to learn more about the ukulele and Brit Rodriguez. Plus, there was an array of light refreshments provided for the consumers and served by the staff.

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