

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
 AMERICAN INDIAN UREP SUBCOMMITTEE
 MINUTES – Monday, April 25, 2011
 Location: United American Indian Involvement
 1125 West Sixth Street
 Dakota Room – Seven Generations**

PRESENT: Lise Merin – AIFP Dan Dickerson – UAI Ramona Ramirez- Hollywood Wellness	Carrie Johnson – UAI John Kirby – Changing Spirits/ BHS Charlotte Lujan – AICC Gloria Sheppard- AICC	Mark Parra – DMH Paul Sacco – Hollywood Mental Health Matt Wells- DMH WET Ruby Quintana-DMH Planning Division	Nina Tayyib – DMH Planning Div Larry Gasco-LAC Mental Health Commission
---	---	--	---

WELCOME	BLESSING – Mark Parra	INTRODUCTIONS – Dan Dickerson
DISCUSSIONS		ACTION STEPS
<p>Share and Care-American Indian/Alaska Native NAMI (Mark Parra)</p> <p>Mark discussed the first meeting of American Indian/Alaska Native NAMI Share and Care group. This is the first NAMI group officially for the American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) community in LA County, and the second AI/AN specific NAMI in the Country. The meeting will be consumer, family, and community driven that is culturally sensitive to AI/AN needs.</p> <p>Mark shared how culturally acknowledging and discussing mental illness is often shameful or stigmatized in the AI/AN community. Often, there is a strong experience of isolation. The hope is for this program to help change that and help develop camaraderie to support individuals and family around the effects of mental illness.</p> <p>The AI/AN NAMI Share and Care group will be meeting monthly, with an expected attendance of 10-20 people. This group will continue to meet every 3rd Tuesday of the month at American Indian Families Partnership. The plan is to start small and the hope to develop a program that is replicable. The group hopes to have more meetings in the near future in SPA 7, where there are a lot of constituents. Potential collaboration opportunities were discussed with Northeast Wellness Center, Urban LA NAMI, and AICC. Mark also stated that he will be following up with DMH staff regarding outreach to other NAMI groups.</p> <p>Wayne Baldero (NAMI Glendale) will be facilitating the group. Wayne is a trained NAMI facilitator and is a family member himself. Wayne can be emailed or contacted with questions. If folks call AIFP, they will be redirected to Wayne. Mark is also available for questions. Contact information is on flyers. UREP members were encouraged to post flyer to their websites in order to outreach to more people.</p> <p>Mark was acknowledged for all his hard work. He in turn praised Marilyn Kim and others for their help and work. Mark discussed how this project was a collaborative effort between Brent Hale (AI Counseling Center), Simone Costales, Barbara Arvi, and Wayne Baldero.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First meeting is June 21st • Meetings will be on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 7-8:30 at AIFP • AIFP will post meeting info on Website

DMH Innovation RFS Update (Nina Tayyib)

Nina provided a quick recap of the Innovation (INN) RFS including its development and service goals.

Nina reviewed progress since the previous UREP meeting and next steps. The RFS was mailed earlier this year to those who were on the LA DMH Master Agreement List for INN. DMH received proposals from agencies in mid March. Presently, proposals are being read and scored by evaluators who will meet in Panels to then finalize scores. This is expected to wrap up in the middle of May. The final decisions and approvals are then made by various DMH and LA County bodies including Executive Management Team (EMT), LA County Board of Supervisors, DMH CEO, and County Counsel. At that point, the proposers will be notified. DMH's original plan was that notification should occur by the end of June so that services can start July 1st, 2011. However, there is some delay, and so the start date will be adjusted as appropriate.

AI/AN UREP mental health provider will receive one contract for a three-year program. The focus of the RFS is on learning and this project is similar to a pilot project. DMH will also providing evaluation services through a third party, which will be selected through another RFS process. One goal is to have the lessons learned from this RFS inform DMH policy in order to make program and funding more effective in meeting AI/AN UREP community mental health needs.

Carrie and Dan shared that UAll did apply and received letters of support from diverse community based partners. Jon Kirby stated that Changing Spirits/BHS did not apply. Dan spoke to how this opportunity is unique in that an agency will be able to integrate traditional healing activities with the present DMH services.

- All proposers will be notified by DMH Contracts Division regarding their proposal.

American Indian Counseling Center Program Head (Mark Parra, Linda Fazio)

DMH is in the process of working on finalizing a Program Head for AICC. The position requires a licensed mental health professional, preferably for someone who is from and/or familiar with the AI/AN community. DMH is looking to extend the hiring process. Dan and Mark had followed through with communicating UREP concerns to DMH. Dr Southard's letter was shared where the concerns were acknowledged and he granted the request to extend the search for another 6 months, since March. So the Program Head position will remain open until Fall 2011. The search notice was sent out by UREP members in an effort to reach more AI/AN candidates.

One of the candidates interested, Linda Fazio LCSW, spoke at the meeting to allow for her to speak about her interest in this position. Linda expressed her desire to get to know AI/AN community members and shared about her own experience at the meeting. She shared that her AI/AN heritage comes from her mother's tribe, the Mesquite Rock Apache from Ruidoso Crop Area. She shared her experience of being born near the Tigua Indian Reservation in El Paso, Texas and growing up Indian. She shared about her professional background. She is a licensed Social Worker since 1981 and presently runs the Northeast Wellness Center.

UREP members spoke about their experience with Linda's program including the cultural based approaches. Linda invited the community to come and visit the site, so that they can get a feel of what this program is achieving. Linda was invited to keep on coming to UREP as well as AI Community Council.

AICC positions (PEI Items open) (Gloria Sheppard)

Gloria shared that at AICC there are presently approximately 12 new items (positions) that have been opened for PEI services. The items include Social Worker, Supervising Social Worker, Medical Case Worker, Secretary, Staff Assistant, Community Worker, and a Substance Abuse Counselor.

In an effort to identify AI/AN culturally competent providers, Gloria and Ana Suarez have asked DMH HR to do a "selective certification" of Social Workers. Selective certification is very helpful to identify culturally competent individuals who are from the community and on the DMH hiring list for a specific item.

In general, anyone who applies to DMH is placed on list for that position for approximately one year and their application is scored and rated in terms of "Bands", with Band 1 being the highest. When a position is open, the DMH staff will need to go through all the applicants that are presently on the list in the order of date of application.

Gloria shared that she has already been interviewing but one of the barriers she is running into is the number of interested candidates that are on file at DMH. For some lists (i.e. Substance Abuse Counselor), the list is very short and Gloria has pulled from Bands 2 & 3. On the other hand, some lists (i.e. Community Worker), on Band 1 alone there are 116 people listed and about 500 people altogether.

Mark suggested contacting HR about opening up the items specifically to the AI/AN community for more culturally competent staff, especially for Substance Abuse Counselors and mentorship opportunities. For the reasons above, Gloria felt that it may be difficult but will follow up with Ana.

There was a suggestion was to have people interested in certain positions to sign up to have email notifications from DMH HR. There was discussion about other approaches to inform potential AI/AN candidates including web based sites. Dan suggested developing a plan to reach people. Issue was flagged for further discussion.

- Item was flagged for further discussion

American Indian Mental Health Conference (Nina Tayyib)

As discussed at previous 2 UREP meetings, the AI/AN UREP Subcommittee would like to resurrect this conference. Attendees were invited to stay for the planning meeting after UREP meeting. A DMH representative from the Training Division will be present.

- Planning meeting was held after UREP meeting.

Bebe Moore Campbell Minority Mental Health Conference (Nina Tayyib)

Bebe Moore Campbell was an advocate for those with mental illness. July is National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month. In order to celebrate this month as well as honor Bebe Moore’s work, the 2nd annual Bebe Moore Conference is being organized by the DMH Planning Division. The date will tentatively be in July at St. Anne’s.

Each UREP group is invited to take part, and will have approximately 30-45 minutes to present an activity (consumer testimonial, etc.) that is reflective of the UREP’s approach to mental health treatment. The theme this year will be on integration of mental health and physical health treatment in culturally competent approaches.

AI/AN UREP members provided suggestions for events, including consumer testimonials. UAII suggested including videos that youth consumers are developing on how dance and drumming has helped them in their healing or youth dancers and drumming. AICC shared that they have some dancing youth that may be available to perform.

Attendants of the previous conference shared that they felt it was well received by the community. Some of the activities that were particularly well received were the client’s testimonials and the Never Stop Band, a consumer run Rock Band.

Nina will be following up with information including a finalized date as well as potential for stipend/honorariums for participants.

- Nina will follow up regarding finalized date
- Nina will confirm if a stipend is available

Workforce Education and Training (WET) (Matt Wells)

DMH would like WET representatives to attend UREP meetings to share opportunities to support career pathways for individuals interested in mental health provision and training opportunities.

The AI/AN UREP Subcommittee agreed that it was a good idea to have a WET Representative participate in UREP meetings. It is also an opportunity to hear from each UREP community what are specific needs for those working in and receiving services from the public mental health system. Matt was invited to return to meetings to support those from AI/AN community who may benefit from WET.

Dan suggested that AI/AN UREP Subcommittee could look at a more structured approach for WET as it relates to AI/AN community. Since there is not specific strategy to target AI/AN group in WET at this time, that can be a conversation that can occur during the UREP meetings.

Matt answered some questions. Specifically, he clarified that:

- The WET RFS is being developed and has not been released yet.
- “Service Extenders” is a position that is not through WET.
- Presently, there are fiscal incentive programs to help pay for mental health professional training

- WET Representative will attend AI/AN UREP meetings

as well as certificate programs for consumers and family members, in terms of workforce development and retainment.

- There will be a Peer Institute that Mental Health Los Angeles will be involved in, which will be a more structured path for consumer/peer advocates positions.
- WET is using broader strategies, including working with younger/high school age about getting into career pathways, in order to build a path for community mental health workers.

White Paper Update (Nina Tayyib)

Nina provided a brief background on the status of the one time UREP capacity building project. The UREP group elected to use the money towards a Learning Collaborative, focusing on the value of cultural activities and traditional healing approaches to mental health issues in the AI/AN community. The goal of the project was to document the voice of the community (through focus groups and community forums held) and for this to be summarized in a paper, called a White Paper. The paper was then to be shared with the AI/AN community and DMH. In a formal booklet and posting of the document on the DMH website.

The consultant selected for this project has failed to deliver a final paper as discussed at the previous UREP meeting. Delight Satter had made contact since the last UREP meeting and relayed that Chris had responded to her phone call. He confirmed that he was well and did discuss the paper with her but had not provided her a final draft.

In order to follow through with the commitment made to the AI/AN community as well as to document the significant work that was done, a group of AI/AN UREP representatives have agreed to start meeting to bring a close to this project. UREP Members who have volunteered to take part include Dan, Jojo, Elton, Carrie, Chrissie Castro, and Mark. The first meeting will be this week and DMH has set a goal to have a final product by July 2011.

Announcements/Adjournment

Gloria discussed May 19th event, 11-3. Intertribal Mental health Awareness Day. There will be a consumer yard sale, sewing group, consumer participation groups, and a flute player. Mark will be there representing the AI/AN NAMI program. If any organizations would like to attend, please contact Halsey Menendez at AICC. Charlotte suggested a guitar player who she knows. Flyer has already been sent to UREP group.

Larry introduced Gary Lubin who previously ran the LAC Mental Health Commission. Larry shared that Gary is very interested and dedicated to AI/AN issues. Gary has offered to extend himself (through UREP meetings, etc.) Larry offered to help leverage as much as possible as well.

Larry shared that their will be a presentation on Health Care Reform (with a focus on the 115 waiver) at the next Mental Health Commission meeting on Thursday, April 28th at noon in the Hall of Administration, LA Superior Court building.

- White Paper work group have scheduled meetings immediately to start working on the paper.
- The goal is for the document to be completed by July 2011

Gloria shared that a medical clinic will be added onto Rio Honda building for AICC adults. Date is pending.	
Next Meeting In 3 months (Late July/ Early August)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An announcement will be sent out once the date has been confirmed.