

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
American Indian/Alaska Native Mental Health Conference Planning Committee**

Meeting Minutes – November 14th, 2011
Location: DMH 550 S. Vermont, Los Angeles, CA, 90020

ATTENDEES:

Larry Gasco-LAC Mental Health Commission	Barbara Arvi – SCIC/AIFP	Luis Escalante- DMH/Training Division
Dan Dickerson – UAI	Ana Suarez – DMH/AICC	Ramona Ramirez-DMH Hollywood Mental Health
Carrie Johnson-UAI	Gloria Sheppard- DMH/AICC	Mary Escobedo- Tribal TANF
Peter John Cano III-Pukuu	Halsey Menendez-DMH/AICC	April Lynch- DMH/AICC
John Kirby-BHS/ AICS	Nina Tayyib – DMH/Planning Division	Cheryl McKnight- BHS/AICS

Blessings and Introductions (Dan/Nina)

DISCUSSIONS

Conference Planning Update

The Conference Planning Committee convened for the fourth meeting.

A quick recap of the AI/AN UREP Subcommittee, the One time UREP Capacity Building project funds, and the previous CPC meetings was provided.

Conference Planning Committee members presently include:

- LAC Mental Health Commission: Larry Gasco
- Southern California Indian Center/American Indian Families Partnership: Barbara Arvi
- United American Indian Involvement: Dan Dickerson, Carrie Johnson
- DMH American Indian Counseling Center: Ana Suarez, Gloria Sheppard, Halsey Menendez, April Lynch, Charlotte Lujan
- Substance Abuse Prevention and Control: Danielle Glenn-Rivera
- Pukuu Cultural Community Center: Peter John Cano III, Ruth Aviso
- Behavioral Health Services/American Indian Changing Spirits: John Kirby, Cheryl McKnight
- Tribal TANF: Mary Escobedo
- Hollywood Mental Health: Paul Sacco, Ramona Ramirez
- American Indian Healing Center: Ben Hale
- DMH: Mark Parra, Luis Escalante, Nina Tayyib

ACTION STEPS

- Planning Committee co-chair selection was tabled for next meeting

Committee members will continue to take the lead in determining the content of Conference, as well as heading Subcommittees when the Conference planning is implemented. A DMH Planning fiscal representative will also attend meetings, if available.

Committee discussed the importance of attendance and leading of subcommittees by Committee members in order to complete the Conference. The Committee agreed to re-assess progress in April/March 2012.

Committee Co-Chair

The Committee discussed electing a co-chair, who would work closely with Nina and Luis in planning and facilitating meetings, etc. There were no volunteers. The group agreed to table the discussion until the next meeting.

DATE AND LOCATION:

It was agreed to start small and hold a one day conference. This would help develop a base that can be built upon for future conferences. The group felt that it was important for conference to be held during A/AN National Heritage Month in November 2012.

Since the last meeting, DMH has requested a reservation at the California Endowment for **Tuesday, November 6th, 2012 from 8-5 am**. The final confirmation will be received in 10 days. The CPC approved of the date.

There are no vendors (food, jewelry, etc) that are allowed by the CE. It was suggested that traditional fry bread recipes be provided to the chefs at CE. Also it was suggested that the jewelry vendors be allowed to display their art and potentially raffie their items or have a silent auction. Nina and Luis will follow up on these requests. After further discussion, the Committee agreed that the planning should proceed with the CE, rather than look into a new location.

DMH has requested 10 rooms at the CE. This includes the main hall, (5) break out rooms, and (4) hospitality rooms. From previous meetings, the hospitality rooms could include an Elder's room, Green room (prep area for speakers), Information room, and a room to Meet & Greet with Presenters, etc. Nina and Luis will bring a layout of CE for next meeting. Nina and Luis will have to confirm approval for the burning of sage.

- Nina and Luis will inquire about providing recipes for traditional foods to chefs at Cal Endowment
- Nina and Luis will inquire about a room for jewelry/art display/silent auction.
- Nina and Luis will have to confirm approval for the burning of sage.
- Nina and Luis will bring a layout of CE for next meeting.
- The timeline will be adjusted so that the selection of speakers will be moved to earlier on the timeline, about the end of January/February.

Timeline

Luis reviewed the tentative timeline. Thus far, the group has confirmed the theme, date, and site. Approximately 6 months would be needed to complete all the logistical tasks for this event so May 2012 will be an appropriate time to roll out the Conference planning for the November 6th, 2012 date. It was decided that the selection of speakers will be moved to earlier on the timeline, about the end of January/February. The subcommittees will be based on this timeline. Subcommittees will be discussed at the next meeting.

CONFERENCE THEME:

The group had determined the theme to be: **"Weaving Wellness Into Our Spirits: AI/AN Mental Health Conference 2012"**

CONFERENCE TOPIC:

There was discussion about topics to be presented. Group agreed that the topics would relate to the integration of traditional healing practices with present mental health treatment to improve outcomes of AI/AN consumers. This could be applied to various different issues including co-occurring disorders, specific age groups, etc. Also, this ties in well with the Learning Collaborative project and is an opportunity to present the work completed. Committee agreed that presentations and workshops will fit under this broad topic.

Other suggestions included:

- Having workshops/presenters who can discuss clinical interventions that are helping AI/AN communities with a focus on present issues (jails, homelessness, gangs, violence, etc.)
- Including a focus on Eliminating Disparities, which is a Statewide focus
- Having a panel of consumers who have rec'd and benefited from integrated mental health services
- "Bridging the cultural divide" to focus on how youth integrate traditional and urban approaches in their lives to maintain mental health, wellness, and balance
- Including Co-occurring disorders and approaches that integrate substance abuse and mental health treatment

- Nina will draft a final program for next meeting
- Nina and Luis will follow up with Dr. Southard's availability

PROGRAM LAYOUT:

The layout for the day was discussed. Below are the suggestions that agreed upon.

Registration/Breakfast

- It was suggested that cultural entertainment occur during this time. Specifically, teh drumming group that Dan is working with was suggested.

Opening Remarks

- The Committee agreed to have an elder from a local tribe saying the opening prayer. Chief Anthony Morales was recommended. It was also recommended to include a song as part of the blessing.

Opening Remarks from EMT

- Dr Southard was requested. Luis and Nina will check Dr Southard's schedule.

Workshops:

- Committee agreed to have (2) Plenary Speakers and (4) workshops. Before lunch, there will be a Plenary speaker followed by the workshops. After lunch, workshops will be followed by a plenary speaker. This tentatively allows for (4) CEUs. The group agreed that this would help allow for a better selection of speakers and allow for more dialogue between attendees about information that is presented.
- Committee will have to also select back up speakers in case there are any cancellations.
- The Yosemite Room (Main Hall that holds 300 people) along with three breakout rooms (each hold about 50-60 people) will be used for presentations, if approved by CE

Lunch

- Committee decided to not have speaker during lunch so that networking will occur during lunch. Bird singers were recommended, that may be arranged by connecting with Chairman James Ramos.

Other

- Committee agreed to not have a separate cultural activity, so as to keep the focus on learning and also maximize time.

SPEAKERS/PRESENTERS:

The Committee discussed speakers that they would like to potentially invite to take part in the conference. Having speakers decided early on may assist with applying for grant funding.

Carrie shared that there is was a resource called "Native Visions" through the State DMH which offers funding (lodging, travel, fee, etc.) for consultants/presenters. The presentation must include AOD, however. The group felt that this would be a valuable resource in trying to identify well known presenters. Carrie agreed to confirm if the funding was still available and also what presenters are part of the project. It was agreed that those speakers who are part of "Native Visions" should be confirmed and approached first. The cost of presenters was discussed.

Below is a list of suggested speakers and the person who agreed to follow up with them informally regarding availability for the date and cost (fee + travel/lodging). Nina will send a follow up email to remind volunteers.

- Bonnie Duran PhD (Dan)
- Chairman James Ramos (Larry)
- Maria Yellowhorse Braveheart (Carrie)
- Chief Anthony Morales (Danielle)
- Dan Dickerson DO, MPH
- Blaine (Woody) Wood, Wellbriety for Prisons (Dan)
- Karina Walters PhD (Dan)
- Dolores Bigfoot PhD (Carrie)
- Don Coyhis, White Bison (Dan)
- Ray Daw (Dan)
- Cherokee Elder (John)

There was a suggestion to tape presenters or speakers. A release form for audio taping or videotaping would need to be developed. This will be discussed when forms are developed.

Funding

Nina re-confirmed that \$15,000 has been dedicated to this event and is available for November 2012. This is the remaining amount from the one time UREP capacity building project allotment. Nina also confirmed that no new Board Letter was needed. Planning Division has started to work on a tentative spending plan. Nina will confirm that food is covered under the Board letter. Nina will request a Planning Division DMH Fiscal liaison to

- Carrie will confirm information on "Native Visions" including the names of the speakers, the availability of the funds, and application process
- Nina will send a reminder regarding speakers

- John will summarize information needed for foundation, bank, and other donations for next meeting
- Nina will confirm with DMH

attending upcoming Committee meetings.

The Committee had a discussion about estimates for costs of the conference, based on experience.

John Kirby spoke about his efforts in identifying foundations who would be interested in donating and potentially matching the amount of the conference. He has identified 3 specific foundations that may be interested in matching or donating funds. John described the information that he will need to start applying for funds (overall budget, draft agenda of conference, 1-2 sentence summary of workshops, etc.) John will summarize information needed and provide for the next meeting. He shared that foundation response time (after applying) can take 6-8 months.

John also offered to look into banks that agencies do business with. He will need agency ED/CEO to provide the names so that he can follow up. John is also willing to work with "Cheap Tix" to get discount/donations of hotel/air fares for presenters.

The Committee agreed that Native American Casinos should be approached for donations. San Manuel Casinos has a form online that can be submitted to request donations in funds. Carrie mentioned that it takes about 2-3 months. John has list of all the Casino funding agencies and will take a look at San Manuel and any additional ones. You have to be a non-profit to get funds and BHS is willing to be a fiduciary agent. BHS offered to function as a fiscal intermediary for non-County funds for donations. Nina will confirm with DMH fiscal.

The Committee agreed that Conference registration fees (about \$100) will be charged. There may be a subsidy for DMH employees who attend. Luis and Nina will work confirm the availability of this resource. Nina will confirm with Fiscal if the Registration fees can be used towards paying for the next AIMHC.

So Cal Edison covered fees for Conference Programs in the past. This resource will also be explored further down the line. Peter offered to explore funding from Dept of Cultural Affairs.

Other:
BOS will be invited to the Conference, particularly Gloria Molina from SD 4, where the Conference will be held.

Next meetings:
The next meeting will on Monday, January 23rd, 3-4 pm at AICC in Cerritos. Committee will discuss regular meeting dates, time, and location. Nina offered 550 DMH.

fiscal the status of the Board Letter and if food is included

- Luis and Nina will work on details of Registration fees, subsidy for DMH employees, and if it is possible to use those registration fees towards the next conference.