

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
AMERICAN INDIAN UREP SUBCOMMITTEE**

MINUTES – Monday, April 26, 2009

Location: American Indian Family Partnership
5809 North Figueroa, Los Angeles, CA 900042

PRESENT:

Glen Ahhaltty- AIFP	Carrie Johnson- UAII	Elton Naswood- APLA	Debbie Royals- AIFP
Maurice Begay- SCIC	Margaret Lee- DMH	Mark Parra- DMH	Darryl Woods- AICS
Dan Dickerson- UAII	Jose M. P. Leon- AICC	David Patterson- NAFC	

WELCOME	BLESSING – Debbie Royals	INTRODUCTIONS – Elton
DISCUSSIONS		ACTION STEPS
<p>Overview of UREP (Elton) Ethnic specific group under the Department of Mental Health. One of few counties with a designated group that enables ethnic communities to have a voice in planning and implementation of funds via the Mental Health Services Act. UREP Groups serve as the community group/service providers/community members who help facilitate implementation of DMH services. As the Native American group, have a voice in how the money is distributed and types of programs to funded.</p>		
<p>Native American NAMI Affiliate (Mark) NAMI stands for National Alliance on Mental Illness. It is a nationwide organization that brings together community and family members to advocate for people living with mental illness from a recovery standpoint; to educate families and the mentally ill themselves and to reduce stigma.</p> <p>Mark was approached by interns who work at the American Indian Counseling Center and was invited to help develop a Native American specific affiliate for NAMI in the Los Angeles area. The establishment of a local Native American specific NAMI chapter of affiliate would provide free, no cost, family to family support, education, advocacy and eliminating the stigma of mental illness in addition to adding a Native American cultural component Needs at least 5 board members who are committed to the development and maintenance of a Native American NAMI chapter.</p> <p>Joining would be beneficial as it is in line with the recovery principles: peer to peer, low cost/no cost, very supportive for what is being done in the community. Provides more support to the Native American community and exposure at national level at conferences.</p> <p>The American Indian Community Council has a mental health workgroup and joining NAMI could be an excellent way to physically connect the community to concrete things that affect their lives; connection would be a concrete way to help plan events or other ways they can feel like they are giving back.</p> <p>Carrie Johnson and Dan Dickerson have also been approached about serving on the board of a Native NAMI affiliate.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will forward letter to the greater UREP group • Look at broadening base for membership; do not limit to LA County, expand to include Orange, San Bernardino, etc.
<p>Learning Collaborative (Elton) Learning Collaborative is an initiative which looks at traditional healing practices and services to be integrated into the regular mental health services that exist. There are 3 phases: First phase was dialogue with traditional healers, service providers and community members who looked at what traditional healing is. Initial dialogue resulted in 4-part strategy which includes research and evaluation, community dialogue, policy change in DMH and creation of a referral system. Developing community forums within county so that information can be obtained and a paper written which would help access the mental health needs of the community.</p> <p>The forums are spread throughout the county. Each forum will have 40 or 50 people and focus groups there will have 10 to 15 people. Once survey is solidified, will be handed out beforehand so people can prepare answers.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food and transportation needs to be addressed by Chris •
<p>Innovations (Margaret) There is \$1,823.870 for the American Indian community per year for 3 years to deliver mental health services in a way that the ethnic community wants to be served. The Learning Collaborative feeds into Innovations because Innovations looks at integrating non traditional providers and practices into mental health care.</p>		<p>JoJo will help coordinate the strategizing and facilitation of the meeting that will be held in mid June.</p>

<p>The plan for the Under Represented Ethnic Populations is called Community-Designed Integrated Service Management Model which means the community designs how mental health services are managed and integrated. Wellness is not a separate entity; it is a holistic approach within ethnic communities.</p> <p>Currently working on a Request for Services (RFS). The RFS will say this is what we want, what we are looking for; send us application stating how you're going to deliver which allows for flexibility for the community to let DMH know how they think they should provide these services. There will be one agency that is the fiscal manager in charge of distribution but wants to see that one agency subcontracting and partnering with other agencies. If the chosen agency can only provide one service like mental health, they would need to subcontract or partner with others who can provide the remaining needed services whether it's substance abuse services or health services.</p> <p>For an agency to get the contract they must be on the Master Agreement List.</p> <p>Discussion focused on how this project could potentially be divisive within the community and ways of preventing this. Project should be about healing for the community and not about agencies fighting each other over who will get the funding. All applicants need to show their collaborative network of partners. Need to come together in an open discussion where the AI agencies need to strategize and let everyone have a voice in how they can utilize the services and money that best helps the community.</p>	
<p>Announcements</p> <p>Paul Sacco will be transitioning out of position as co-chair. Now that Paul is no longer with the American Indian Counseling Center, the UREP group would need a DMH employee co-chair. The ideal candidate would be the Program Head of AICC. Since that position is vacant, the UREP group needs to decide who they want in an interim co-chair role.</p> <p>Another announcement is the opening of Program Head at the American Indian Counseling Center. The position is open to any person outside of DMH. AI UREP will have a role in deciding who gets that position.</p>	<p>Margaret to check if the co-chair can be outside of DMH in the interim.</p>
<p>Agency Updates</p> <p>Native American Family Center is starting to get back up and running and targeting recovery.</p> <p>Changing Spirits has a new program. In process of organizing and reorganizing. Recently opened more beds and trying to fill up the residential from 18 to 32 men.</p> <p>AICC is now a non profit and no longer associated with the county of Los Angeles. Decided to continue with original mission of not providing services but to try to bring everyone to the table and ensure communication and collaborating to make sure that American Indians throughout LA County have positions in government taskforce, counsels and committees and to make sure people are in leadership development so they can fill those roles.</p> <p>AIDS Project Los Angeles – Red Circle Project which is the only HIV prevention program in Los Angeles County. Does support groups for native transgenders. Wants to outreach in Long Beach as there is a large population. Services are for all Natives.</p> <p>7 Generations provides services to native children and families throughout LA County. Have a staff of 40 that does predominately home visits. 7 Generations has a large SAMSHA System of Care grant for working with the community. Provide Wrap-Around care and has seen a dramatic change as focus is no longer on problems and diagnoses but now on their strengths. May 6th is Children's Mental Health Awareness Day and having a mini conference at United Methodist Church on Wilshire and Normandie. Will start at 1 and run until 4:30. Will have speakers talking about children's mental health and Project ABC on 0-5 and will have a panel and comedian.</p> <p>American Indians Family Project is a brand new program funded by First 5 LA and Southern California Indian Center is the lead fiscal agent. The work arena is child abuse prevention. Collaborative includes AICC, 7 Generations and about 12 more. It's a referral system that provides assessment and wrap around type of services for families who are dealing with DCF without an open case and pregnant youth up to age 24.</p>	
<p>Next Meeting July 2009, exact time to be determined</p>	<p>Closing Prayer by Glen Ahhalitty</p>