

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH  
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT DIVISION**

**Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind, and Physical Disabilities UsCC Subcommittee**

**MINUTES**

May 15, 2018

2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

550 S. Vermont Ave.

**Present:** Bernice Mascher, Sunnie Whipple, Alex Elliott, Denise Johnson, Pam Inaba, Amy Kay, Erik Escareno, Hector Ramirez, Sandra Clayton, Sawako Nitao, Mirtala Parada Ward, Kelly Wilkerson  
**By phone:** Sylvia Youngblood, Wendy Cabil

| Agenda Items                                   | Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions  |
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| <b>Welcome/<br/>Introductions</b>              | Attendee introductions.  |
| <b>Review of minutes</b>                       | Review April meeting minutes.  |
| <b>Announcements</b>                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mirtala informed the subcommittee that the County is going to be installing TTY devices in all the clinics. Feedback from subcommittee is that the TTY system is very outdated and most deaf or hard of hearing individuals no longer use the TTY. Recommendation to look into Video Relay Service (VRS) instead.</li> <li>• Subcommittee recommended strongly that the County not move forward with that plan as the TTY systems are outdated and rarely used.</li> <li>• Subcommittee members recommended installing video phones and exploring Video Relay Service (VRS) programs/apps (examples: Sorenson, Purple, Convo).</li> </ul> <p><u>Questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't we have an ADA Compliance Officer in the Department? <b>We do and that's what they are proposing to put in the clinics.</b></li> <li>• Can we add language to the by-laws about the co-chairs going out and advocating on behalf of the subcommittee? <b>We can. The by-laws will be revised and vetted through the UsCC Leadership.</b></li> </ul> |
| <b>Co-Chair<br/>Nominations/<br/>Elections</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kelly reviewed some of the requirements for co-chairs including attending subcommittee meetings and the UsCC Leadership meeting.</li> <li>• Mirtala shared regarding our visit to Five Acres to elicit feedback from the staff there and recruit new subcommittee members. One outcome of that meeting is that we will be providing ASL interpreters at each subcommittee meeting.</li> <li>• Kelly reviewed the status of the co-chair nominations/elections: from the community, there have been three people that have been nominated (Pam Inaba, Hector Ramirez, Sylvia Youngblood).</li> <li>• Erik Escareno also expressed interest in being a community co-chair.</li> <li>• Thus far, Alex Elliott is the only person from DMH who has been nominated as a co-chair and has been elected as the</li> </ul>  |

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|   | <p>DMH co-chair. Mirtala to email Alex’s supervisor to confirm that Alex will be one of the co-chairs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SLT Seat-Mirtala to work on getting a seat for this subcommittee. Pam Inaba, Saadia Jackson, and Sylvia Youngblood expressed interest in sitting on the SLT seat when that time comes.</li> </ul> <p><u>Follow-Up:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kelly to send out follow up email to the subcommittee and then move forward with the community co-chair Survey Monkey next week.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Subcommittee Name</b></p>                     | <p><u>Ideas Shared at Previous Meetings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and People with Physical Disabilities UsCC Subcommittee</li> <li>• People who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or have Physical Disabilities UsCC Subcommittee</li> <li>• Deaf or Hard of Hearing and Physical Disabilities UsCC Subcommittee</li> <li>• Sensory Impairments &amp; Physical Disabilities UsCC Subcommittee</li> <li>• UsCC Subcommittee on Accessibility Needs</li> </ul> <p><u>New Ideas:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deaf, Blind, and Disabilities</li> <li>• Limitless Accessibility</li> <li>• Sensory and Physical Disabilities</li> <li>• Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind, and Physical Disabilities (DHHBPD)</li> <li>• Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Visual Impairments, and People with Physical Disabilities</li> <li>• Coalition of Disabilities</li> </ul> <p><u>Recommendations/Feedback</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subcommittee member expressed that the deaf community won’t connect with the word “accessibility.”</li> <li>• Develop a mission or vision for the group, as well as a mantra.</li> <li>• Recommendation to follow up regarding whether those who have intellectual disabilities can be included. Mirtala to send Hector a copy of the regulations.</li> <li>• Kelly to follow up with a Survey Monkey to determine subcommittee name.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Capacity Building Projects-Discussion</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mirtala and Kelly shared with the subcommittee a community mental health needs assessment that was conducted by the LGBTQI2-S UsCC subcommittee.</li> <li>• Members discussed the need for a similar project for this subcommittee. Kelly to work on Statement of Work.</li> <li>• Another project idea shared: flyer and social media campaign. Can also include this in the Needs Assessment SOW- look at materials and various age groups.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Next Meeting</b></p>                          | <p>7/11/18</p>  |