

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

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

**MINUTES**

August 29, 2018  
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
Five Acres

**Present:** Alex Elliott, Sylvia Youngblood, Arnold Youngblood, Amy Kay, Erik Escareno, Sunnie Whipple, Christopher Lopez, Mirtala Parada Ward, Kelly Wilkerson  
**By phone:** Wendy Cabil, Pam Inaba, Hector Ramirez

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
<b>Welcome/ Introductions</b>	Attendee introductions.
<b>Review of minutes</b>	Mirtala texted the agenda and minutes to those on the phone since the LACDMH networks have been down. Approved July 2018 meeting minutes with no changes.
<b>Announcements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hector Ramirez shared regarding the upcoming 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of Remembrance on 9/17/18 – at 1:55pm there is a moment of silence to recognize those who died while at state hospitals and were buried on the grounds of state hospitals. Hector will send the flyer to be distributed.</li> <li>• Erik Escareno shared regarding the Deaf Festival taking place on 9/29 from 11am-4pm. Five Acres will have an information booth at the festival. Amy Kay to send the flyer and booth information.</li> <li>• Sylvia Youngblood shared regarding the County sponsored Pow Wow taking place in November. Sylvia will send the flyer to be distributed.</li> <li>• Alex Elliott shared regarding the MHSOAC who will be voting on three Innovation proposals and expansion of the Tech Suite. The event is taking place 9/27/18 at the Hyatt near LAX and everyone is invited to attend and give public comment.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Feedback/Recommendations</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erik Escareno provided feedback regarding UsCC Graduate Recruitment Program: 1) no agencies available to intern where interns could work with deaf or hard of hearing clients and 2) no macro internships available.</li> <li>• Outreach to blind or partially sighted community has been challenging. Sylvia Youngblood to reach out to contact.</li> </ul>
<b>Capacity Building Projects – Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Mental Health Needs Assessment – Reference quotes received, project should be sent to ISD next week. Kelly to inform subcommittee once it goes out to bid.</li> <li>• Recommendation to ensure that the Community MH Needs Assessment leads to developing better interventions.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>New Ideas</u></b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend community outreach events and host booths, in particular at Universities – reach out to the Disability Centers.</li> <li>• Communication between different departments and Counties, trainings between different departments and outside organizations about what DMH is doing and how can we partner together to better serve this community.</li> <li>• Better develop DMH website – there is a lack of communication within DMH itself, lack of awareness about services that are available, there needs to be a place where this information can be accessed on the DMH website. Include a social media component.</li> <li>• Working with CSUN and other Deaf Studies programs to create a curriculum to funnel in deaf educated and deaf students to participate in a MSW program.</li> <li>• Training new therapists on how best to work with Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind, and Physically Disabled clients.</li> <li>• Professional development program for new clinicians.</li> <li>• Develop brochures and materials (i.e. Culture Card), that are accessible (including in braille).</li> <li>• Develop a Deaf Center. Five Acres has been utilizing PEI funding despite serving various populations. (Mirtala to reach out to the contract monitor for Five Acres). Feedback that people should be able to go anywhere, which is the larger issue.</li> <li>• Develop fact sheets regarding disability rights/responsibilities and the law.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Ideas Shared in July Subcommittee Meeting</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forums/Symposiums – listening sessions</li> <li>• Brochures including those translated into Braille</li> <li>• Resource guide via an app</li> <li>• Trainings</li> <li>• Recruitment programs at community colleges</li> <li>• Focus groups at schools with students and teachers</li> <li>• Educate parents on how to access mental health services for their children</li> <li>• For deaf and hard of hearing folks, provide professional workshops around trauma in deaf children, how to refer to appropriate services, effectively provide interventions, etc.</li> <li>• Changing forms to be more accessible</li> <li>• Staffing and referrals, developing a referral system, utilizing applications and databases to make the referral system more effective (i.e. prioritize higher risk)</li> <li>• Create an intervention book – tailored interventions that work with various communities</li> <li>• Creating an evidence-based practice, creating something that will be utilized</li> </ul>
<b>Next Meeting</b>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 12:07pm.</p> <p>TBD</p>