

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
OFFICE OF PERFORMANCE DATA - QUALITY IMPROVEMENT DIVISION
LATINO UsCC SUBCOMMITTEE**

MINUTES –Tuesday, March 20, 2018

9:30 – 11:00 A.M.

Location: 695 So. Vermont Avenue, 5th Floor Los Angeles, California, 90005

ATTENDEES: Mirtala Parada Ward, Paco Retana, Rosie Perez, Betty Mendoza, Maritza Lebron, Felicia Flores, and Rosario Ribleza.
People on the phone: Gloria Sistos, Lorraine Ragosta, Dr. Ana Nogales, and Berenice Onofre

DISCUSSIONS

I. Welcome and Introductions

- II. **09/18/17 Meeting Minutes review and approval** – minutes of the meeting reviewed and approved by all members (moved to approve by Lorraine Ragosta, and seconded by Rosa Perez).

III. Vote Result of the 2018-2019 Capacity Building Project

- A.** Voting – Mirtala briefly reviewed the voting privileges, and informed the subcommittee that only eight (8) subcommittee members qualified to vote. She also announced the winner of the 2017-2018 Capacity Building Project which is the “Comic Books”.

IV. Next Step for Comic Books Project – Discussion

- Mirtala recommended that a focus group will be created and have a back to back meetings to get feedback on themes on suicide prevention, substance abuse, health, teen-pregnancy, LGBTQ, and diversity. There will be discussions in English and Spanish on how and what to do. Conduct a lot of outreach until May 2018 to prepare for S.O.W. Make presentations at school’s PTA. Bring consumers, and experts. Paco suggested inviting youths who are consumers after school. Recommended questions to ask:
 - a) What would you like to read in the comic books?
 - b) What topics to be included?
 - c) Who is the target population? Family? Youth?
 - d) What do we want to accomplish? What is our message?
- Maritza Lebron suggested reaching out to our consumers (children), their families and communities. Get their input and utilize their own talents, by submitting their creative designs. Comic book writers must have knowledge of mental illness.
- Paco Retana reminded to include printing and distribution – colored? Or black and white? Be strategic in distribution. Also use the ethnic identity such as “Being Proud of Being a Latino”, and encourage self-esteem.
- Mirtala mentioned that there are more Latinos at SA 7 and San Fernando Valley. She reminded that there will be two (2) S.O.W.

to submit: one is for person/s who will write the script and does graphics, and another S.O.W. for printing.

- Berenice Onofre suggested historical facts like Cinco de Mayo.
- Felicia Flores recommended to target everyone; all groups and to use neutral language.
- Betty Mendoza suggested to engage with consumers first where everyone can relate to.
- Rosie Perez – Comics should have a little of everything. Write a story that will lift someone up instead of being depressed.
- Felicia Flores – Every member of the family should be represented; must be funny and catchy.
- Lorraine Ragosta – could use podcasting like “Comadre Y Comics” – use mental health clients.
- Dr. Ana Nogales reminded that we should be mindful that the comic books must be respectful, and should not make readers feel disrespected which could increase stigma instead of helping.
- Lorraine, Maritza, and Felicia will suggest vendors.

V. Update on the Latino Mental Health Stigma Reduction Community Theater Project

- Mirtala – The project is currently for solicitation. Once approved, it requires community participation to help identify the places, and prepare the flyers to distribute. It may take longer as it has several phases: recruitment, scriptwriting, training of participants, and presentations. Participants will receive stipend. Each presentation is anticipating having 40 community members to attend. It will start by July 2018.

VI. Announcements:

- Mirtala – LACDMH is asking the community for their input on how to improve delivery of services. LACDMH wants to know what is working and what is not working especially with regards to cultural competency. Suggestion/Input will be submitted to MiMi Mckay, Deputy Director, Department of Mental Health.
- Paco mentioned on social justice and to reduce bureaucracy.

VII. Adjourned