

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
Strategic Communications Division

American Indian / Alaska Native (AI/AN) UsCC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

August 5, 2020

2:00PM – 4:00PM via Microsoft TEAMS

Present: Monique Smith, Robyn Gomez, Farrah Ferris, Hector Ramirez, Gabriel Pimentel, Shannon Rivers, Tina Charley, Sylvia Youngblood, Nikki Crow, Bernice Mascher, Sunnie Whipple, Raul Garcia
DMH Admin: Kelly Wilkerson, Sandra Chang and Connie Acosta Castaneda

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
Welcome, Prayer & Introductions Subcommittee Members	Bernice Mascher lead the meeting with prayer, Attendee introductions.
July Meeting Minutes – Review Subcommittee Members	Minutes were approved Kelly will confirm with the subcommittee, when the recordings are uploaded to the DMH UsCC website.
Co-Chairs Nominations – Discussion Kelly Wilkerson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kelly Wilkerson followed up with management if Shannon Rivers would be eligible to be nominated for the role of Co-Chair for the AI/AN subcommittee. • Kelly confirmed Shannon is able to run for the position of Co-Chair because he does work and live in Los Angeles County. • Kelly read the Co-Chair requirements and the By-laws to the subcommittee. • Both of the candidates expressed why they would be interested in being Co-Chairs for the AI/AN subcommittee. • Sylvia Youngblood and Shannon Rivers shared their advocacy work for the Native community, their qualifications, experiences, knowledge and expertise. • Voting members took a motion to appoint Shannon Rivers and Sylvia Youngblood for the Co-Chair positions as there are two vacancies, and no other nominees. • Kelly will send out Bios via email and will follow up with Co-Chairs regarding stipends. • Farrah Ferris has been a Co-Chair for the AI/AN subcommittee for almost two years now. Her term will end in August 2020. She is looking forward to passing on the baton to the new nominees. She will continue to support the subcommittee and will continue to attend meetings. • Robyn Gomez graciously and kindly had to decline her nomination for Co-Chair due to her schedule being full, but will continue to support and attend meetings. • Bernice Mascher suggest/shared that there should be a third alternate Co-Chair.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hector Ramirez would like to emphasize that the Co-Chairs should have the understanding of the importance of attending all meetings.
Capacity Building Projects – Kelly Wilkerson & Subcommittee Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The subcommittees has received approval to move forward with the Capacity Building Projects that are able to take place during COVID-19. • The subcommittee will start brainstorming on COVID-19 specific projects that target the American Indian/ Alaska Native community. • The four previously discussed AI/AN UsCC Capacity Building Project ideas can/will be discussed via email and continue to discuss at the next meeting. • DMH is searching for a way to share the PSAs to the community. • Kelly asked if anyone has additional feedback or ideas, they would like to share with the subcommittee, its open for discussion. Please submit within the next three weeks.
Subcommittee Name – Discussion Subcommittee Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bernice Mascher suggested the subcommittee have a Talking Circle to discuss more about the group’s name. The subcommittee agreed.
General Announcements - Subcommittee Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunnie Whipple shared his concerns with how COVID-19 is affecting the Native community and with regards to the Los Angeles County layoffs. • Kelly shared the message she received from Executive Management and Human Resources that they are doing everything they can to prevent layoffs from happening at all. • Dr. Sandra Chang shared that certain sites in Los Angeles County are facing the possibility of layoffs and that this is across all County departments, including DMH. • Sunnie Whipple inquired whether AICC (American Indian Counseling Center) would be closing. Kelly shared that there were no plans for that, but that she would follow up. • Sunnie Whipple would also like to see the new Co-Chairs that are appointed participate in an orientation before their term starts.
Audio Recording	<div data-bbox="457 1081 793 1333" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="852 1130 1276 1179">AI/AN UsCC Meeting</p> <p data-bbox="852 1235 1310 1268">to publish, view, edit or share!</p> <p data-bbox="438 1354 1367 1386">You can access the recording by creating a free account on MS Teams:</p> <p data-bbox="438 1422 1323 1455">https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/microsoft-teams/free</p>

Meeting Adjourn	Sunnie Whipple ended the meeting in Prayer.
Next Meeting	<p>September 2, 2020 1:00pm – 3:00pm</p> <p>Microsoft TEAMS meeting info:</p> <hr/> <p>Join Microsoft Teams Meeting</p> <p>+1 323-776-6996 United States, Los Angeles (Toll)</p> <p>Conference ID: 600 729 535#</p> <p>Local numbers Reset PIN Learn more about Teams Meeting options</p> <hr/>