

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS

Latino UsCC SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

December 15, 2020

2:00PM – 4:00PM

Attendees: Alexandra Casanovas, Amparo Ostojic, Ana Nogales, Barbara Malinowski, Betty Mendoza, Bianca Gallegos, Bridget Walker, Carmen Perez, Carolina Varela, Claudia Gonzalez-Razo, Elsy Molina, Eugenia Cervantes, Gabriela Gonzalez, Gloria Leiva, Hector Ramirez, Irma Vasquez, Jaime Gomez, Johana Lozano, Leonor Johansen, Maria Del Carmen Rosales, Magali Garcia, Maritza Lebron, Martha Cota, Martha Ojeda, Martin Almanza, Michael Brown, Paco Retana, Patricia Veliz-Macal and Yair Lopez

DMH Staff: Dr. Luis Guzman, Julio Miranda, Connie Acosta Castaneda,

Alex & Lucy Ferraez Rivero

Interpreter:

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
Welcome & Introductions –	A. House-keeping (Platform use instructions), Attendance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each attendee (On Microsoft TEAMS and on phone) introduce himself/herself.
Review of Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• November meeting minutes have been reviewed and approved by Patricia Veliz-Mascal and second by Johana Lozano.
Ad-hoc committee updates – Dr. Luis Guzman	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approximately 5 months ago 17 committees' started working in the 7 Service Areas. Expanding on how we can help our community and what is needed and how as a department we can help the Latino community, during this pandemic and after.• 1. Education, 2. Support for the Elderly, 3. help for the undocumented, 4. Older Adults with basic needs, 5. domestic violence, 6. stigma 7. outreach with the community.• The concerns from the community are: Latino cannot finish school because they have to work to support their families.• Families are facing a lot of stress and anxiety from the fear of COVID-19 and financial hardship.• Children are giving up their studies. There is no school supervision due to parents having to work.• They don't have the services or technology, or don't know how to use them. They might have limited internet, to many family members on the internet at once.• There is a lot of concern on how the Latino community is being impacted by ICE, they do not know how to ask for help, and they are being separated from their families. They do not know how to ask for help.• The experts say the complications and implications of the pandemic will last at least five years until we are fully recovered.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paco Retana shared with the group that he is very concerned about how schools are not asking for mental health services for the children.
MHSA Survey Monkey Latino Mental Health Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Populations most impacted and most in need of mental health services; is the Latino community. Los Angeles County department of mental health sent out a survey for suggestion and to obtain direct information on how to improve County services. This survey is open to anyone in Los Angeles County that would like to participate. You can find the survey on the DMH website. Dr. Luis Guzman went through all six questions of the survey with the subcommittee. Hector Guzman suggest that that the department make the survey in Spanish with written language the community can understand. Specific Mental Health needs; the community needs to reach out and say what is needed in their communities. The department needs to transform and make changes to better the community.
Capacity Building Project Ideas	<p>A. Brainstorm by Ad-hoc committees;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The subcommittee were asked for recommendations and ideas on implementing new programs and capacity building projects. The goal is to implement 2 or 3 projects a year. A few examples; Food Program as part of outreach for Mental Health Services. Virtual event on how to improve stress with food. Training in utilizing service animals for emotional support. Short creative videos on Mental Health for the Youth on line. Poems and short stories, ideas and suggestions for virtual format. Dr. Guzman went through some of the Capacity Building Projects the Latino subcommittee have done in past years, for example, the Comic Book project done by 16 – 25-year-old youths. It was a platform for them to express how they are feeling and mental health issues through the form of art. Dr. Ana Nogales shared times and dates and information of her Video Play that is virtual on Facebook and ZOOM. The Genius and Crazy of all of us. First play will be this week on Friday at 6:00pm and Saturday, and Friday at 5:00pm. Voting to implement new Capacity Building Projects will be in January.
DMH Announcements	<p>A. MHSA 3-year plan community input:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The subcommittee would like more information on the COVID-19 vaccine. The department is thinking about the clinics and how they will continue to provide Mental Health Services. It is very important that the Promoters program continues. The application for the Promoters program is available on the DMH website. Invite friends and family that might be interested. The department is very focused on helping. The County and the State are on top of what is going on and have an opportunity to make change. They will continue working on recommendations for the 3-year budget.
	Meeting Adjourned – 4:00pm
Next Meeting	January 19, 2021 from 2:00pm – 4:00pm Virtual Venue: Microsoft TEAMS