

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS
Latino UsCC SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES**

October 19, 2021
2:00PM – 4:00PM

Attendees: Adriana Carrillo, Anna Hernandez, Ashley Flores, Belia Lopez, **Betty Marín, Betty Mendoza**, Brandy Figueroa, Brenda Garcia, **Bianca Gallegos**, Britany Flores, Carmen Perez, Commissioner Imelda Padilla-Frausto, **Cristina Rojas**, Crystal Clark, Daisy Veliz-Macal, **Daniela Hernandez Chong Cuy**, David Serrano, **Delia, Elidia Olmos**, Eugenia Cervantes, **Gabriela Gonzalez, Gabriela Velasquez**, Giovanni Choque Ladino, Guadalupe Nolasco Torres, **Hector Ramirez**, Henry S, **Irma Velasquez**, Imee Perius, Karina Luis, **Leonor Johansen**, Maria Arauco, Maria Zuniga, **Maritza Lebron**, Martha Ortiz, Martha Ojeda, **Martin Almanza, Mercedes Moreno, Michael Cook, Nancy, Olivia Olmos; Paco Retana**, Patricia Pascua, **Patricia Velasquez, Patricia Veliz-Macal**, Paul Vallejo, **Ruth Wen, Suyapa Umanzor**, Tina Enwall, **Veronica Navarro, Yolanda Becerra-Jones**

DMH Staff: **Dr. Luis Guzman, Pinki Mehta,**

Interpreters: **Angelica, Alex & Lucy Ferraez Rivero**

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
Welcome & Introductions – Subcommittee Members	A. Housekeeping, Attendance Each attendee (On Microsoft TEAMS and on phone) introduce themselves
Introduction of New Latino UsCC Co-Chairs	A. New co-chairs (Daniela Hernandez & Gabriela Gonzalez) introduced themselves and spoke about goals/vision for their time as co-chairs
Review of Meeting Minutes	A. August 17, 2021, meeting minutes have been reviewed and approved by Irma Velasquez and second by Maria Arauco .
Homelessness/Housing Instability	A. Hope & Resilience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness is a result of many different factors including and it may look differently in Latino community including living in cars, living with family members, in garages, etc. • Approximately 36% of homelessness in Los Angeles County are Latinos • Latinos are the group with the lowest utilization rate when it comes to housing/homelessness services in Los Angeles County

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current definition of homelessness by LAHSA/LACDMH are missing key cultural factors of the Latino community that increase disparities in homelessness • The Latino community also faces language barriers and unfamiliarity navigating the process to get help when facing issues of homelessness/housing instability that are currently unaddressed • There is currently no tracking of Latinos, especially monolingual Spanish-speaking LA County residents when they reach out to LAHSA or LAC DMH outreach teams to figure out if they have been placed in stable housing • There is a growing unmet need for housing and housing support for Latinos experiencing homelessness and mental health disorders/SMI
<p>Domestic Violence/Interpersonal Violence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics of domestic violence in Latino community have spiked disproportionately during COVID-19 • Survivors are focused on meeting their basic needs (housing, food, etc.) and may think they don't have many choices but to endure domestic violence • Domestic violence survivors continue to face significant barriers to finding DV shelters or housing; even to qualify to be placed on a list for housing • Many shelters closed at the beginning of the pandemic due to COVID-19 and have not reopened • Community expressed concern about impact on children exposed to domestic violence, especially on the negative impact it has on the developing brain of young children • Need for DMH to work with schools on providing resources and education on mental health/psychological impact of domestic violence on children
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sherin provided a brief recap of the changes that have occurred in the last 4 years to support community / stakeholder input • He discussed the challenges in making significant changes to big systems like Los Angeles County / DMH • Dr. Sherin identified new resources that DMH has developed/implemented to support the Latino community including the Warm Line providing support in Spanish, Speakers Bureau that is available to do presentations important to the Latino community, and the expansion of the Promotoras program. • Dr. Sherin shared the recognition that DMH received for the clinical services provided to Unaccompanied Minors Program at the Fairplex in Pomona • DMH received recognition from LA County Board of Supervisor Hilda Solis and Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra • Dr. Guzman was mentioned and recognized for his work with the Unaccompanied Minors program at the Pomona Fairplex

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sherin identified workforce capacity as an ongoing and pressing issue that impacts the Latino community and stated that he is working with State and the Federal government as well as the BOS to address the shortage of clinicians
DMH/Community Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No announcements
	Meeting Adjourned – 4:00pm
Next Meeting	<p>November 16, 2021, from 2:00 pm – 4:00pm Virtual Venue: Microsoft TEAMS</p>