

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

September 20, 2022  
2:00PM – 4:00PM

**Attendees:** Alicia Llamas, Betty Marín, Betty Mendoza, Bianca Gallegos, Brenda Hernandez, Carmen Perez, Daniela Hernandez, Elsy Molina, Eric Hernandez, Evelyn Salas, Gloria Leiva, Hector Ramirez, Irma Velasquez, Jaime Gomez, Laura Iniguez Segura, Maria Arauco, Maria Limon Gutierrez, Maria Daisy Ortiz, Maria Zuniga, Maritza Lebron, Martha Ortiz, Martin Almanza, Matilde Gonzalez, Mercedes Moreno, Paco Retana, Patricia Pascua, Vanessa Bustos, Veronica Monge, Yolanda Becerra-Jones, Yue Hua Xu

**DMH Staff:** Dr. Luis Guzman & Theion Perkins

**Interpreters / CART:** Claudia & Lucy Ferraez Rivero / JoAnn

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions – Subcommittee Members</b>	<b>A. Housekeeping, Attendance</b> Each attendee (On Microsoft TEAMS and on phone) introduced themselves
<b>Review of Meeting Minutes</b>	<b>A. Motion to approve minutes made by Maria Arauco and seconded by Bianca Gallegos</b>
<b>Capacity Building Project Results</b>	<b>A. Results</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Voting members of the Latino UsCC selected 4 projects to implement for the current FY 2022-2023</li> <li>ii. Projects chosen included 1) Talking/Healing Circles 2) Latino Mental Health Service Act 3) Cultural-based Lifestyle and Mind-Body Medicine Health Education &amp; 4) The Mental Health Literacy and Advocacy Program</li> </ul>

- iii. Community members had questions about the process re: capacity building projects including about the four specific projects chosen for the current FY
- iv. Community members commented on the importance of funding these projects due to language barriers and deeply embedded stigma in the Latino community

**B. Next Steps**

- i. Dr. Guzman will begin to write the Statements of Work for the projects so they can eventually be put out for bidding by registered vendors
- ii. Once a vendor is selected, they will begin implementation of the specific capacity building project they were awarded
- iii. Information on project-related activities will be shared with community once those activities/events get closer

**Conversation with Theion Perkins – Asst. Dep. Director**

**A. Theion Perkins on behalf of Director Wong**

- i. Theion Perkins shared information regarding programs and services availability to the Latino community including 1) Mental Health Promoters 2) ARDI Division put together a Spanish Grief and Loss support group
- ii. Each service area is beginning to receive training in grief and loss to be able to provide across the system
- iii. The Department was under a complete hiring freeze during the COVID-19 pandemic and was unable to hire bilingual bicultural clinicians but has since started to hire staff that is representative of the community they serve

- iv. Initial outreach into schools to talk to college and graduate social work and psychology students about careers in mental health
- v. Dr. Guzman clarified for the community on the Grief and Loss groups put together by ARDI sharing that it was actually an idea put forth by the Latino UsCC and Statement of Work developed by Dr. Guzman
- vi. Funding for the grief and loss workshops is from the UsCCs capacity building funds
- vii. Community member asked Theion if the Department has a Strategic Plan on how to recruit more bilingual bicultural Mental Health providers
- viii. Theion reported that the Department does not have a strategic plan for hiring or recruiting of bilingual bicultural clinicians despite the chronic shortage but would like to hear any recommendations the Latino UsCC has for recruitment of Latino clinicians  
“...we are just trying to put in a plan just to make sure that we have representation, management representation in each UsCC group so that we can hear what you need and we're just putting that in place. But there's not a clear strategic plan on how to just bring in Latinos. I'm not going to tell you anything that's not true, but I'm here today to to work with you so we can”
- ix. Theion shared that she would get back on who can provide support to the Mental Health Promoters especially with technology
- x. DMH has a program to support staff who begin Social Work programs to continue working in DMH while attending school

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>xi. Theion shared that as DMH’s hiring has grown in the last several months, HR has not grown so it is having a hard time keeping up with processing all the clinicians who have been hired</li> <li>xii. DMH leadership is trying to retain existing staff given that many staff/clinicians carried extra job responsibilities during the pandemic</li> <li>xiii. Theion committed to follow up on the 4 key issues raised by the community including an update on the Strategic Plan for hiring more bilingual/bicultural staff.</li> </ul>
<b>Peer Resource Center – Latino Community</b>	<b>A.</b> Tabled due to lack of time
<b>Community Debriefing</b>	<b>A.</b> Tabled due to lack of time
<b>DMH/Community Announcements:</b>	<p><b>A. Items Not on the Agenda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Workshops on grief and loss for the Spanish-speaking Latino community will start second week of October as part of Capacity-Building project for FY 2021-2022</li> <li>ii. Peer Resource Center shared resources and services that they have available</li> </ul> <p><b>B. DMH Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. None</li> </ul>
<b>Next Meeting</b>	<b>October 18, 2022, from 2:00 pm – 4:00pm</b> <b>Virtual Venue: Microsoft TEAMS</b>