

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

February 21, 2023
2:00PM – 4:00PM

Attendees: Alexandra Blanc, Amparo Ostojic, Angel Marin, Audrey Cruz, Betty Marin, Betty Mendoza, Bianca Gallegos, Blanca Watson, Elsy Molina, Eric Hernandez, Eugenia Cervantes, Felipe Ocampo Jr, Gabriela Gonzalez, Gabriela Velasquez, Genesis Samuell, Gloria Leiva, Hector Ramirez, Irma Flores, Irma Velasquez, Jennifer Hernandez, Josof Sanchez, Karla Silva, Laura Iniguez Segura, Luz Hernandez, Madelyn Tapia, Maria Arauco, Maria Orozco, Maritza Lebron, Martha Ortiz, Martin Almanza, Paco Retana, Pamela Inaba, Patricia Veliz Macal, Rosa Rodriguez, Sara Mijares, Stacy Dalglish, Stephanie Castillo, Tina Enwall, Veronica Monge, Yolanda Becerra-Jones, Yue Hua Xu

DMH Staff: Dr. Luis Guzman

Interpreters / CART: Claudia & Lucy Ferraez Rivero / Lindsay Hovermale,

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
Welcome & Introductions – Subcommittee Members	A. Housekeeping, Attendance Each attendee (On Microsoft TEAMS and on phone) introduced themselves
Review of Meeting Minutes	A. Motioned made by Gloria Leiva and Seconded by Maria Arauco
Mental Health Service Act (MHSA)	A. Update/Feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. MHSA Budget for 2023-2024 has approximately \$400 million in available funds for funding proposals ii. Dr. Guzman provided an update on the Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) letter of concern written by the Latino UsCC stating that the letter had been provided to Director Dr. Wong, Acting Deputy Director Connie Draxler, MHSA Manager Kalene Gilbert, and MHSA Division Chief Darlesh Horn iii. Dr. Guzman reported that DMH had not provided a response or validated the Latino community’s concerns over mental health inequities by LACDMH

- iv. Community shared feedback on MHSA stakeholder feedback process including the following key points:
1. The process, requirements, and funding opportunities for Innovation proposals were not explained to the community even though DMH and affiliated entities (such as other city/county departments) submitted Innovation proposals.
 2. Materials and information were requested in Spanish and while some materials were translated into Spanish, other materials regarding funding proposals from session two were never translated and/or shared with the community despite repeated requests. National CLAS (Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Service) standards were not adhered to despite the community requesting that they follow well established DMH practices and policies regarding translation. Google Translate was repeatedly used with no bilingual certified DMH employee reviewing the translation to ensure cultural and linguistic appropriateness. This is the same issued that happened during the Three-Year MHSA Plan in 2021.
 3. MHSA administration refused to answer community questions on how they would ensure that equitable funding occurred when soliciting and selecting proposals to move forward
 4. When materials/information/emails were translated, the community received them usually a day before or the day of the meeting while information and materials in English were provided ahead of time.
 5. Not enough context or sufficient details were provided with each proposal when completing the survey which left many community members

confused and concerned, they were voting on something without sufficient information and that this would be the basis for major funding decisions

6. Proposals compiled by MHSA staff including on the online survey had significant omissions, errors, and incomplete information.
7. The Latino community expressed concerns that the proposal process and funding requests were biased in that with the exception of a few proposers, majority of the proposals would either not prioritize serving the mental health needs of the Latino community or were targeting SPAs or populations exclusive of the Latino community based on their description. This process also seemed to favor those with more resources and connections to DMH.

B. Discussion/Next Steps

- i. The Latino UsCC voted to create an MHSA ad-hoc to write a letter formally protesting the process and outcome of the MHSA Annual Update stakeholder process because of significant deficiencies and bias.
- ii. Latino stakeholders voted to form an ad-hoc group that will meet to draft a letter with the identified issues included to make clear that the current funding proposals under consideration do not reflect or address the needs of the Latino community in any meaningful manner.
- iii. Latino community requested that DMH provide a clear response on how they will ensure equitable funding and budget allocation as well as concretely map out how DMH will ensure transparency and accountability from these proposals.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. Latino community is requesting true inclusion for the 3-year MHSA planning process, training to prepare for it, and an effective outreach plan to get Latino stakeholders involved v. DMH leadership and MHSA administration does not have understanding of the diversity within the Latino community including those who are recent immigrants to those who are third generation Latinos/Hispanic
<p>Capacity Building Projects 2023-2024</p>	<p>A. Overview/Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Agenda item tabled; motion by co-chairs for community debrief ii. Motion adopted by unanimous voice vote
<p>DMH/Community Announcements:</p>	<p>Items Not on the Agenda</p> <p>A. DMH Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Every third LACDMH Latino UsCC meeting will be held in English to be inclusive of monolingual English-speaking Latinos; interpretation is available at every meeting in English/Spanish <p>B. Community Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. None at this time
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>March 21, 2023, from 2:00 pm – 4:00pm Virtual Venue: Microsoft TEAMS</p>