

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Access for All UsCC Minutes

April 12, 2023

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Stakeholders: **Maria A., Lalonda Alex, Wendy Blanco, Joseph Burton, Wendy Cabil, Racquel Decipeda, Erik Escareno, Stacy Dalgleish, Carey Grier, Cody Hanable, Alison Freeman, Jacqueline Hasty, Trang Hoang, Pamela Inaba, Adjoa Jones, Amy Kay, Becky Nguyen, Rihanna Nordlund, Salatiel Pineda, Laura Iniguez Segura, Rosy Tellez, Addison Rose Vincent, Debra Ward**

DMH Staff: **Daniel Estrada, Dalila Jimenez, Sylvia Gonzales Youngblood, Jenny Nguyen, Suyapa Umanzor, and Elaine Waldman**

Interpreters: **Kayelle Morgan and Courtney Nimersheim**

Captioner: **Joann Jaimes**

| Agenda Items | Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions |
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| Welcome and Introductions | Everyone was welcomed. The meeting started late due to Microsoft Teams technical difficulties. |
| Meeting Minutes: Review and Approval | Amy Kay moved to approve the March minutes, and Sal Pineda seconded the motion. |
| Research Highlights from the Field | Rihanna Nordlund presented a brief summary of research she conducted recently, during her graduate studies in social work. She examined the concept of chronic |

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| | <p>sorrow and its affects on 72 parents who have children with disabilities. She analyzed stigma in the ways that service providers and parents respond to disability (through a medical, social, minority, or independent living lens).</p> |
| <p>Capacity-Building Proposals</p> | <p>Access for All UsCC community members were provided an opportunity to submit proposals for consideration in upcoming funding for capacity-building projects. Those who participated in this process were invited to present their proposed concepts. Eligible UsCC members would be emailed a ballot to vote on which project(s) they prioritized for funding.</p> <p>Liberation Workshop Series:</p> <p>Addison Rose Vincent shared their proposed project, which aims to provide 30 participants with disabilities with a safe space to create and express themselves through a series of ceramics classes. A licensed therapist will provide any needed mental health support; and a group event will take place, to showcase the art pieces. This project adapts lessons learned from working with another UsCC.</p> <p>Expanding Mental Health Services for Blind and Visually Impaired People:</p> <p>Joseph Burton and Racquel Decipeda shared that Blind and visually impaired people in Los Angeles County need space to process their unique challenges with their peers, to enable their full participation in social, recreational, mental health, physical health, and wellbeing activities. This project seeks to increase access to services, reduce stigma, and increase acceptance with and for blind and visually impaired community members.</p> <p>Strengths and Empowerment Services with the Disability Community:</p> <p>Rihanna Nordlund proposed that a potential contractor create a series of facilitated, supportive, empowering workshops both with and for people with disabilities in Los Angeles County. Topics include stigma, disability culture, barriers and solutions to navigating employment and social service resources, and wellness. Lessons learned will be distilled and a curriculum will be developed for social workers to use to better understand the strengths, needs, and guidance of people with disabilities.</p> |

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| | <p>African American Infant and Maternal Mortality Community Action Rapid Response Team:</p> <p>Adjoa Jones presented on how African American/Black birthing people and infants experience disproportionately high mental health stressors and disabilities caused by racism and trauma. The proposed project will strengthen community response to support parents and babies before, during, and after birth to help address the epidemic of African American/Black maternal and infant mortality in Los Angeles County.</p> <p>Innovation Lab & Fellowship Program</p> <p>Addison Rose Vincent presented on a project to provide an opportunity for young adults and adults with disabilities to plan and test innovative capacity-building ideas. Adapting lessons learned from working with another UsCC, this project will enable a group of 16 participants to work intensively over the course of one week in collaborative learning and exploration.</p> |
| Next Meeting | The next meeting is on May 10, 2023 – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM |