

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health  
Stakeholder Engagement Unit

Black & African Heritage Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC) Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, October 5, 2023 - 10 am-12 pm

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WELCOME

**Introductions/Check-In**

Co-Chairs: Romalis Taylor and Queen Nina Womack.

Attendees: Wendy Cabil, Mc Harris, Amy Mcilvaine, Debra Gatlin, Gregory Parker, Senait, Carey Grier, Sada Richardson, Leslie Dishman, Kadiatou Sinayoko, Janice Rooths, Nakeya Fields, Aleyne Eatman, Captioner Ross, Keith Coleman, Lowanya D. Young, Marcus Word, Nelmonikav Jones, Tabitha, Tanisha Grant, Yvonne's Otter, Keith Brandon, Kristen Pannell, Jo Ann Freeman, Eron Johnson, Dr. Okafor, Chell Le.

**DMH Admin:** Mirtala Parada Ward, Carolyn Brown, Crystal Clark, Darlesh K. Horn, Anna Yaralyan.

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**Approval of Minutes:**

- 9/7/2023 Minutes approved: Janice Rooths  
Seconded: Marcus Word

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**Introduction of new BAH UsCC Liaisons**

- Anna Yaralyan

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**DMH Updates**

- Mirtala Parada Ward, Program Manager 3, ARDI Division (includes UsCCs, Promotoras, Speakers Bureau & Cultural Competency unit) spoke about the following:
- Congratulated BAH Subcommittee for having a very successful retreat. Overall, it was very productive.
- Congratulations to Co-Chairs Romalis Taylor and Queen Nina Womack for successfully facilitating that process and entire BAH UsCC subcommittee for providing valuable recommendations and feedback.
- Mirtala provided updates on Capacity Building Projects. There were eight (8) projects for this group. Six (6) SOWs have been written and will be ready to be submitted. There are two (2) more SOWs to complete. This could probably be completed in a month. Hopefully by November, all eight projects will be completed.
- Mirtala also talked about ARDI events. These are small community events to celebrate a culture every month. ARDI funds are separate from CBP funds. ARDI events are done in conjunction with the CCC, the UsCC, the Promotores and the Service Area leadership teams, which are the SALTs. ARDI is trying to implement a cultural event a month to highlight one culture. LA County is very diverse, and it's the largest County in the state, so DMH will collaborate with different groups to conduct different cultural events.
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- **LACDMH BAH UsCC Planning Retreat - 9/25/23: - Queen Nina Womack**
    - 30 Outreach/Events
    - 40 Outstanding UsCC Capacity Building Projects
    - 50 Topics & Ideas for BAH UsCC Capacity Project Proposals FY 2024 – 2025
    - 60 Action Plan

#### **MHSA Update**

- Review of Annual Update and opportunity to give input via: [MHSA Announcements - Department of Mental Health \(lacounty.gov\)](#)
- Transitioning to 3-year Plan in the coming months
- Input of leadership from the various UsCCs, CCs, and SAACs

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#### **Community Engagement (Public Comment):**

- Share community engagements via email to [BAHUsCC@dmh.lacounty.gov](mailto:BAHUsCC@dmh.lacounty.gov) for general distribution
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#### **Community Event Announcements**

- Continue discuss on 2-year Retreat

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Black & African Heritage Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC) Subcommittee Meeting  
Minutes Thursday, October 5, 2023 - 10 am - 12 pm**

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**Upcoming Meetings** (first Thursday of the month, 10am-12pm):

11/02/2023

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

323-776-6996, Conference ID: 101 721 830#

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