

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
American Indian / Alaska Native (AI/AN) UsCC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2023

2pm – 3pm via Microsoft TEAMS

Co-Chairs Present: Farrah Ferris
Members Present: Jessica Mosher, Eva Poweless, Jennifer Yates, Taylor Pulsifer, Gabriel Pimentel, Ravena Soto, Blanca Watson, Cesar Aranguri, Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood, Belinda Najera, Harrelson Notah, Andrea Garcia, Dan Dickerson
Presenter: Andrea Garcia, Taylor Pulsifer
DMH Admin Present: Kelly Wilkerson

Agenda Items	Discussion
Welcome, Prayer, Land Acknowledgment & Introductions	Meeting opened with prayer. Members were asked to introduce themselves in the chat. Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood provided a land acknowledgment.
Meeting Minutes	November 2023 minutes were reviewed and approved (first – Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood, second – Eva Powless).
Co-Chair Report Out & Workgroup Report Outs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-chair updated the subcommittee on the Community Planning Team (CPT) meetings continuing to take place. The most recent meeting was focused on promising practices/evidence-based practices. MHSA Administration is looking for additional EBPs to consider for the three-year planning cycle. • Farrah inquired regarding whether the AI/AN Promoters (Harrelson Notah and Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood, would be able to attend the CPT meetings on a regular basis. If not, the chairs would like to request this for future meetings. Recommended to contact Adriana Carrillo or Mirtala Parada Ward. • Reminder to complete membership survey. The goal of the survey is to get a baseline of the current membership including demographic information and feedback on wellness needs for the AI/AN community. Survey link: https://forms.office.com/g/K12ZwecCZZ
Unhoused Native Population – Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Andrea Garcia from DMH and the Native American Indian Commission, presented regarding recent updates related to unhoused Native communities. • In 2018, a community forum was held focused on homelessness.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Key takeaways were that community had been taking care of one another and there was a desire for culturally sensitive housing. ○ A report was developed and shared within the various systems. The report highlighted the need to make sure the systems are aware of the issue of Native homelessness, ensure that the resources are driven towards the community, and focus on connecting our service providers to the systems at large as that is where the resources are. ○ Additional desire for more AI/AN representation in various systems, as well as current and accurate data. ● The NAIC applied for Care Force Community Investment funds, which they subcontracted to Native serving organizations to help provide rental assistance and emergency hotel vouchers to community members. ● The CEO homelessness initiative reached out to tribal communities and Native service providers to partner on another funding opportunity. ● Board of Supervisors passed a motion in 2019 which asked County departments to look at Native homelessness – this work continues now. A consultant was hired 2 years ago to push the work at the County level behind the scenes. That consultant will be transitioning out and the hope is that the CEO Office of Homelessness will take full control of these efforts. ● They have also requested a set aside of funding specifically for culturally appropriate Native housing.
<p>LAHSA Work with Native Communities – Presentation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Taylor Pulsifer, MPA, LAHSA AI/AN Coordinator, presented regarding some of the work that she is doing with LAHSA. ● Role was created out of the board motion from 2019. The community advocated for this role to exist. ● Primary role is as a tribal liaison to community providers including DMH, Torres Martinez Tribal TANF, Pukuu, and United American Indian Involvement (UAI). ● LAHSA hosts an all hands meeting which includes Native providers, where they provide technical assistance on how to access LAHSA services including funding portal. ● LAHSA hosts an internal workgroup to explore recommendations that were developed out of the board motion and ensure they keep momentum. Taylor to share Board motion report with subcommittee that highlights recommendations. ● Taylor is working to educate others within LAHSA regarding tribal communities and to share resources. ● LAHSA is developing a three-part series training about the history of local tribes as well as homelessness and provides strategies for how to work effectively with AI/AN populations. ● LAHSA is also exploring how to capture data more accurately for AI/AN communities.
<p>Capacity Building Projects – Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AI/AN Traditional Wellness Gatherings – final gathering took place in October, vendor to present at January meeting. ● AI/AN Community Engagement Campaign – project is wrapping up, vendor to present at a future meeting. ● AI/AN Mending the Hoop Project – project is wrapping up, vendor to present at a future meeting.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI/AN Youth Graphic Novel Project – project began in November, currently in the process of recruiting participants. Kelly to resend recruitment flyer. • AI/AN Cooking for Wellness Project – solicitation closed, no bids received. Project to be resolicited ASAP. • AI/AN Community Garden Project – submitted in PTS, pending solicitation. • MMIWG2-S Awareness Campaign Project – currently out for solicitation. • AI/AN Elder Mental Health Support Project – submitted in PTS, pending solicitation. • Suicide in Native Communities Project – submitted in PTS, pending solicitation. • AI/AN Intergenerational Storytelling Project – this project will be revisited in the beginning of the new year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kelly and Mirtala met with PIO to discuss any copyright concerns, legal issues, and intellectual property.
Community Announcements & Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send any resources to Kelly via email (KeWilkerson@dmh.lacounty.gov) to be sent out to the listserv.
Closing Prayer	Meeting closed with Prayer.
Meeting Minutes	All meeting minutes are available on the DMH website: https://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mhsa/uscc/american-indian-alaska-native-ai-an-uscc/american-indian-alaska-native-ai-an-uscc-meeting-minutes/
Upcoming Meetings & Links	<p><u>Next Meetings (first Wednesday of the month, all meetings 2-4pm):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1/3/24, 2/7/24, 3/6/24, 4/3/24, 5/1/24, 6/5/24 <p>Join Microsoft Teams Meeting; 323-776-6996, Conference ID: 806 867 419# CART is provided for all meetings: www.streamtext.net/player?event=UsCC-AIAN</p>