

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

November 1, 2023

2pm – 4pm via Microsoft TEAMS

**Co-Chairs Present:** Shannon Rivers, Farrah Ferris  
**Members Present:** Hector Ramirez, Bernice Mascher, Robyn Gomez, Jennifer Yates, Taylor Pulsifer, Blanca Watson, Lourdes Rabello, Gabriel Pimentel, Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood, Belinda Najera, Toni Craigs-Thomas  
**Presenter:** Jill Sherman  
**DMH Admin Present:** Elaine Waldman, Darlesh Horn, Mirtala Parada Ward

Agenda Items	Discussion
<b>Welcome, Prayer, Land Acknowledgment &amp; Introductions</b>	Meeting opened with prayer. Members were asked to introduce themselves in the chat. Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood provided a land acknowledgment.
<b>Meeting Minutes</b>	October 2023 minutes were reviewed and approved (first – Farrah Ferris, second – Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood).
<b>My Culture My Self: The Importance of Keeping Cultural Identity – Presentation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jill Sherman, member of the Hoopa Tribal Council, presented regarding the importance of keeping cultural identity.</li> <li>• Discussion included the differences between federally recognized and non-federally recognized tribes, the importance of connecting with one’s culture, and how allies can support AI/AN community members.</li> </ul>
<b>Co-Chair Report Out &amp; Workgroup Report Outs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bernice Mascher, co-chair for the CCC, shared regarding their upcoming meeting focused on stress management. They are requesting input from AI/AN community as it relates to stress management.</li> <li>• Co-chairs updated the subcommittee regarding the recent CCC/UsCC leadership meeting. One of the goals is to have a presenter attend the leadership and subcommittee meetings to share regarding the upcoming MHSA amendment bill (Proposition 1).</li> <li>• Co-chairs also updated the subcommittee on the Community Planning Team (CPT) meeting that took place on the 27<sup>th</sup>, there were discussions regarding homelessness and some of the impacts in LA County. Stakeholders</li> </ul>

	<p>would like DMH to increase outreach for next fiscal year. Dr. Andrea Garcia from DMH and Taylor Pulsifer from LAHSA will be presenting at the December meeting regarding Native homelessness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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: <a href="https://forms.office.com/g/K12ZwecCZZ">https://forms.office.com/g/K12ZwecCZZ</a></li> <li>• The ICCTM Learning Collaborative meetings continue to be on hold.</li> <li>• Reminder that the December meeting will be a shorter meeting (2-3pm on 12/6).</li> </ul>
<p><b>DMH Updates/MHSA Feedback Request</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mirtala Parada Ward, ARDI Program Manager, provided updates regarding the MHSA feedback requests being gathered from the various stakeholder groups.</li> <li>• Kelly to share a survey to gather feedback and the subcommittee to schedule a follow up Ad Hoc meeting once ideas are collected via survey.</li> <li>• Mirtala shared regarding an upcoming pilot that will be taking place amongst the UsCC subcommittees related to accommodation requests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ An announcement will be made at the end of each meeting that members should anticipate receiving an email from the liaison regarding any accommodation requests for the next month's meeting (i.e. language interpretation, CART, etc.).</li> <li>○ 15-days prior to the next meeting, a reminder email will go out to all members.</li> <li>○ The goal of the pilot is to gauge whether this system will be effective for gathering accommodation requests. Currently accommodations are provided at many of the stakeholder meetings that may or may not be needed or utilized by subcommittee members.</li> <li>○ This process will begin in the new year.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Capacity Building Projects – Updates</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AI/AN Traditional Wellness Gatherings – final gathering took place in October, vendor to present at a future meeting.</li> <li>• AI/AN Community Engagement Campaign – project is wrapping up, vendor to present at a future meeting.</li> <li>• AI/AN Mending the Hoop Project – project is wrapping up, vendor to present at a future meeting.</li> <li>• AI/AN Youth Graphic Novel Project – project awarded to Wombat MHS, will begin this month.</li> <li>• AI/AN Cooking for Wellness Project – solicitation currently taking place, Kelly to provide updates ASAP.</li> <li>• AI/AN Community Garden Project – SOW has been submitted to Mirtala for review.</li> <li>• MMIWG2-S Awareness Campaign Project – submitted in PTS, pending solicitation.</li> <li>• AI/AN Elder Mental Health Support Project – submitted in PTS, pending solicitation.</li> <li>• Suicide in Native Communities Project – SOW finalized, pending quote and then submission in PTS.</li> <li>• AI/AN Intergenerational Storytelling Project – this project will be revisited in the beginning of the new year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kelly and Mirtala met with PIO to discuss any copyright concerns, legal issues, and intellectual property.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<p><b>Community Announcements &amp; Resources</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Send any resources to Kelly via email (<a href="mailto:KeWilkerson@dmh.lacounty.gov">KeWilkerson@dmh.lacounty.gov</a>) to be sent out to the listserv.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Closing Prayer</b></p>	<p>Meeting closed with Prayer.</p>
<p><b>Meeting Minutes</b></p>	<p><b>All meeting minutes are available on the DMH website:</b> <a href="https://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mhsa/uscc/american-indian-alaska-native-ai-an-uscc/american-indian-alaska-native-ai-an-uscc-meeting-minutes/">https://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mhsa/uscc/american-indian-alaska-native-ai-an-uscc/american-indian-alaska-native-ai-an-uscc-meeting-minutes/</a></p>
<p><b>Upcoming Meetings &amp; Links</b></p>	<p><b><u>Next Meetings (first Wednesday of the month, all meetings 2-4pm):</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12/6/23, 1/3/24, 2/7/24, 3/6/24, 4/3/24, 5/1/24, 6/5/24</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Join Microsoft Teams Meeting</a>; 323-776-6996, Conference ID: 806 867 419#  CART is provided for all meetings: <a href="http://www.streamtext.net/player?event=UsCC-AIAN">www.streamtext.net/player?event=UsCC-AIAN</a></p>