

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

January 3, 2024

2pm – 4pm via Microsoft TEAMS

Co-Chairs Present: Farrah Ferris
Members Present: Jessica Mosher, Eva Powless, Bernice Mascher, Jennifer Yates, Taylor Pulsifer, Blanca Watson, Ravena Soto, Bridget Garcia Vera, Lourdes Rabello, Rae Lopes, Iva Maes, Melanie Cain, Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood, Stephanie Mushrush, Toni Craigs-Thomas, Harrelson Notah, Andrea Garcia, Dan Dickerson
Presenter: Eva Powless
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	December 2023 minutes were reviewed and approved (first – Jessica Mosher, second – Eva Powless).
Co-Chair Report Out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-chair updated the subcommittee on the Community Planning Team (CPT) meetings continuing to take place, as well as the MHSA planning. • 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
Traditional Wellness Gatherings – Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eva Powless from SSSP presented regarding the FY 21-22 capacity building project, the Traditional Wellness Gatherings. • There were 5 gatherings in total, 2 virtual and 3 in-person. The in-person gatherings were held in Service Areas 2, 3, and 7. • 284 community members in total registered, and 187 participated in the gatherings, surpassing the goal of 150 unique participants in total.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TWG final summary.pdf • TraditionalWellnessGatheringsPresentation.pdf
DMH Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kelly and Mirtala introduced new UsCC Unit Supervisor, Dr. Jennifer Alquijay. Jennifer shared about her experience, including her work with United American Indian Involvement. • Mirtala and Rigoberto shared regarding the UsCC retreats and the focus for the retreats including creating the subcommittee's annual action plan that leverages collective resources to build great mental health awareness in the AI/AN community, to connect AI/AN community members to resources, and to improve services and systems for AI/AN community members. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Objectives could include strengthening collaborative relationships among members and DMH staff, developing an action plan, agreeing on next steps as well as roles and responsibilities, and sharing reflections. ○ Kelly to send out a survey to gather feedback from the members regarding potential dates, locations, and catering suggestions.
Capacity Building Projects – Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • AI/AN Youth Graphic Novel Project – currently in phase 2, in the process of recruiting participants. • AI/AN Cooking for Wellness Project – currently out for re-solicitation until 1/9/24. • AI/AN Community Garden Project – currently out for solicitation until 1/9/24. • MMIWG2-S Awareness Campaign Project – solicitation closed 12/11/23. Pending award by ISD. • AI/AN Elder Mental Health Support Project – currently out for solicitation until 1/9/24. • Suicide in Native Communities Project – solicitation closed, no bids received. Will be re-solicited. • AI/AN Intergenerational Storytelling Project – this project will be revisited this year at a future meeting. <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	<u>Next Meetings (first Wednesday of the month, all meetings 2-4pm):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2/7/24, 3/6/24, 4/3/24, 5/1/24, 6/5/24, 7/3/24, 8/7/24, 9/4/24, 10/2/24, 11/6/24, 12/4/24 Join Microsoft Teams Meeting ; 323-776-6996, Conference ID: 806 867 419#
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