

**Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health  
LGBTQIA2-S UsCC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, January 4, 2024, 2-4 pm**

**Welcome/Introductions**

**Present:** Mikey Fields, Bill Sive, Merry Meyers, Hector Ramirez, Eden Luna, Paul Vallejo, Nicole Kristal, Alex Salazar, Mark Gonzalez, Alexis Glenn, Jennifer Jiries, Tyrique Wilson, Jennifer Yates, JavonTae Wilson, Thalia Camargo, Calypso Jete, Lourdes Rabello, Ismael Maldonado, La Londa Alex, Rebecca Gitlin, Keianna Crenshaw, Andrea Aoun

**DMH Admin:** Kelly Wilkerson, Jennifer Alquijay

**Getting To Know You** – Tyrique Wilson shared about himself.

**November 2023 Meeting Minutes** – Meeting minutes approved (first-Bill Sive, second-Paul Vallejo).

**Co-Chair Updates**

- Co-chair updated the subcommittee regarding the recent CCC/UsCC Leadership meeting where the capacity building project guidelines and bylaws were reviewed and discussed, as well as voting criteria and eligibility for co-chairs.
- Hector recommended this subcommittee designate a delegate to participate in the regular MHSA CPT meetings.

**DMH Updates**

- Kelly introduced the new supervisor for the UsCC unit, Dr. Jennifer Alquijay. Jennifer shared a bit about her work with underserved communities, including her time working as a clinical supervisor at United American Indian Involvement.
- Kelly shared regarding the opportunity for each UsCC to host a retreat focused on developing stakeholder priorities for the new year, creating an action plan, exploring short-term next steps/roles/responsibilities, and strengthening collaborative relationship among subcommittee members and DMH staff.
  - Hector Ramirez recommended the retreat be held at The Village.
  - Ismael Maldonado recommended that one of the discussions at the retreat be focused on conferences.
  - Mirtala Parada Ward, ARDI Program Manager, to attend in February to share more about the possibility of a retreat.

**Subcommittee Goals for 2024 – Recap**

Kelly reviewed the subcommittee 2024 goals discussed at the November 2023 meeting:

- Leadership development for future co-chairs.

- Look at Gender refugees, people leaving other states for California, for example to receive gender affirming care. Are we in a position to help those individuals?
- Recruitment of new members, in particular those that receive services from LACDMH.
- Incubation academy opportunities for community members.
- Consider capacity building projects for LGBTQIA2-S youth in foster care.
- Explore in person opportunities to connect with the subcommittee.
- LGBTQIA2-S mental health conference or summit.
- Bring in outside speakers who are not part of our traditional network.
- Look at burnout and self-care.

### **Current and Future Capacity Building Projects – Update**

- Updates on capacity building projects currently being implemented:
  - What We Think Project – Currently in final phases, will be completed by January 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - The Panthera Project – Currently in final phases, will be completed by January 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - Bi+ Affirming Mentorship and Storytelling Lab – wrapping up second phase including Lab recruitment.
  - Transforming Community Care: API LGBTQ+ Mental Health and Wellness Project – began as of January 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Proyecto Mariposa Monarca – wrapping up second phase including participant recruitment.
  - Two-Spirit Storytelling Project – beginning third phase including Storyteller gatherings.
  - Neurodivergent Voices Album Project – awarded to Rex Wilde, initial vendor meeting scheduled for January 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - LGBTQIA2-S Violence Prevention Lab Project – awarded to Addison Rose Vincent, beginning second phase.
  - LGBTQIA2-S Housing Listening Sessions Project – awarded to AMAAD Institute, beginning second phase.
  - Liberation Workshop Series Project – awarded to Addison Rose Vincent, beginning second phase.
- Discussion regarding brainstorming for FY 24-25 projects:
  - Subcommittee discussed whether to do an open call for proposals or spend time in the next meeting looking at communities to target for the upcoming round of capacity building projects. Kelly to send out a survey to members to gather feedback.
  - Recommendation to focus a project on suicide amongst LGBTQIA2-S community members, in particular youth.

### **General Announcements/Resources**

- Send any resources to Kelly via email ([KeWilkerson@dmh.lacounty.gov](mailto:KeWilkerson@dmh.lacounty.gov)) to be sent out to the listserv.

**Upcoming Meetings (first Thursday of the month, 2-4pm):** 2/1/24, 3/7/24, 4/4/24, 5/2/24, 6/6/24, 7/4/24, 8/1/24, 9/5/24, 10/3/24, 11/7/24

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#); 323-776-6996, Conference ID: 542 042 921#

Meeting minutes can be found at <https://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mhsa/uscc/lgbtqia2-s-uscc/lgbtqia2-s-uscc-meeting-minutes/>