

**Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
LGBTQIA2-S UsCC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 1, 2024, 2-4 pm**

Welcome/Introductions

Present: Ana Bernal, Bill Sive, Merry Meyers, Addison Rose Vincent, Hector Ramirez, Rex Wilde, Eden Luna, Paul Vallejo, Alex Salazar, Mark Gonzalez, Alexis Glenn, Jennifer Jiries, Jennifer Yates, Thalia Camargo, Calypso Jete, Aaron Mason, Hannah (Hazel) Soffa, Jovany Lopez, Rafael Lopes, Rafaela Vargas, Jae Canas, Thai Le, Durga Dasi, Arianna Avina, La Londa Alex, Sharon Chapman, Vicky Xu, Keianna Crenshaw, Cinthia Vargas, Andrea Aoun

DMH Admin: Kelly Wilkerson, Jennifer Alquijay

Getting To Know You – Rafael Lopes shared about himself.

January 2024 Meeting Minutes – Meeting minutes approved (first-Paul Vallejo, second-Bill Sive).

Co-Chair Updates

- Co-chair updated the subcommittee regarding the recent CCC/UsCC Leadership meetings where the capacity building project guidelines and bylaws were reviewed and discussed, as well as voting criteria and eligibility for co-chairs.
- Co-chair highlighted the need for a subcommittee leadership plan as both co-chairs will end their terms around August.
- This subcommittee is looking for a delegate to participate in the regular MHSA CPT meetings. Kelly to send out a request to members.

FY 24-25 Capacity Building Projects – Targeted Communities – Discussion

- Drag performers (explore economic and health disparities)
- Interfaith dialogues (in particular focused on Palestinians and Jewish communities or another possibility is affirming ministry and the impact that has on mental health)
- Internet safety/mental health and social media (for example politically and civically engaged individuals are being doxxed at protests)
- Ballroom community
- Harm reduction – fentanyl, education and awareness, Naloxone distribution
- Aging in place, how to plan for the future for folks who never thought they would make it
- Incarcerated people
- Pacific Islanders and Native Hawaiians
- Southwest Asian, North African, Middle Eastern
- Mixed race communities
- Voter knowledge (increasing awareness)

- Deaf and hard of hearing folks (i.e. training around sign language or MH providers or learning ASL for LGBTQ members in general)
- Polyamorous communities (something around stigma)
- Suicide awareness and prevention for LGBTQIA2-S youth
- Former foster and adoption youth (older now-certain experiences/traumas that they want to talk through)
- Unhoused populations, in particular elders (eviction moratorium ending, many families will be displaced, look at housing assistance/resources in all projects)
- Frontline workers (possible mental health and physical health impacts)
- Ace communities (education/awareness for communities in general, possible artistic project focused on ace communities)
- Physically disabled communities (possibly mobility programs to foster self-healing and empowerment)
- Grief support spaces for LGBTQIA2-S folks (different identities and ages, intergenerational support, many queer people don't see themselves living past 35, use different modalities like art making, poetry, movement, sound)
- TAY youth sexual and MH education around STI awareness and screenings
- Anti-trans and anti-drag legislation (individuals moving to CA because of targeted legislation such as trans youth or other groups that are specifically impacted)

UsCC Retreat

- 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.
 - Kelly to send out a survey to members to gather feedback regarding particular dates, as well as catering and location recommendations
 - Mirtala Parada Ward, ARDI Program Manager, to attend in March to share more about the retreat.

DMH Updates

- Jennifer Alquijay provided updates including a Black History Month event taking place at the end of February. Kelly to share the flyer.

Current Capacity Building Projects – Update

- Updates on capacity building projects currently being implemented:
 - What We Think Project – Currently in final phases, was extended and will be completed by April 30th.
 - The Panthera Project – Project extended and will be completed by May 31st.
 - Bi+ Affirming Mentorship and Storytelling Lab – starting third phase including Lab.
 - Transforming Community Care: API LGBTQ+ Mental Health and Wellness Project – currently in second phase including participant recruitment. Vendor provided updates to subcommittee during meeting.
 - Proyecto Mariposa Monarca – currently in second phase including participant recruitment.
 - Two-Spirit Storytelling Project – currently in third phase including Storyteller gatherings.
 - Neurodivergent Voices Album Project – preparing to begin first phase in March.
 - LGBTQIA2-S Violence Prevention Lab Project – currently in second phase including participant recruitment.

- LGBTQIA2-S Housing Listening Sessions Project – wrapping up second phase including participant recruitment, session will begin in March.
- Liberation Workshop Series Project – currently in second phase including participant recruitment.

General Announcements/Resources

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

Upcoming Meetings (first Thursday of the month, 2-4pm): 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/>