

**Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health  
Stakeholder Engagement Unit  
Black & African Heritage Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC) Subcommittee Meeting  
Minutes Thursday, January 4, 2024 - 10 am-12 pm**

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WELCOME

**Introductions/Check-In**

**Co-Chairs:** Romalis Taylor and Queen Nina Womack.

**Attendees:** Donnise Vonner, Chell Le, Donnise Vonner, Ebony Dolphin, Nakeya Fields, Joyce Sales, Kerry McIntyre, Kimberly, Kirsten Pannell, Lowanya D. Young, Kevin Hatcher, Nina's OtterPilot, Success Coach, Amy Mcilvaine, Dr. Donald Grant, Marcus, Wendy Cabil.

**DMH Admin:** Mirtala Parada Ward, Darlesh K. Horn, Anna Yaralyan, Jennifer Alquijay.

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**Approval of Minutes:**

- 12/7/2023 Minutes approved: Wendy Cabil,
- Seconded: Queen Nina Womack.

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**DMH Updates**

**Mirtala Parada Ward provided BAH UsCC Subcommittee Capacity Building Projects updates:**

- Mirtala introduced Dr. Jennifer Alquijay, a Clinical Psychologist who has been hired to provide supervisory support to UsCC Liaisons.
- Urged BAH Subcommittee members to start thinking about new Capacity Building Projects for FY 2024 – 2025. Administratively come together and see what type of projects BAH Subcommittee might be interested in doing. All Capacity Building Projects, CBPs, must have written formal proposals, there is an approved proposal form for CBPs. This year all CBP Proposals must be submitted by Memorial Day weekend, by May 30th, 2024.
- Mirtala also provided updates on BAH Subcommittee current Capacity Building Projects; by the end of the month five projects will be out to bid.
- **Dr. Donald Grant gave a PowerPoint Presentation titled, “Strengthening Community Connections Project (SCCP) for Black Men & Boys.”** This project supports Black men and boys across the county of Los Angeles through listening to the needs and experiences of Black men and boys. Project Consultant facilitated workshops series and interviews to explore issues such as anxiety, trauma, and adverse health outcomes. Participants received mentorship, training, resources, wellness tools, and advocacy, coupled with psychoeducation, to enhance their daily experiences and shed light on the effects of intergenerational trauma. Each participant was tasked to share their learnings with family and community members. County Mental Wellness Climate Survey was done, focusing on the experiences, support systems, needs, and perspectives of Black men and boys living in Los Angeles County. The data collected from the surveys was used to provide recommendations and strategies aimed at enriching the lives and futures of Black men and boys.

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**LACDMH BAH UsCC CBPs FY 2025 – 2026 Romalis Taylor**

- Outreach/Events, (O & E): BAH UsCC Subcommittee has been doing retreats, & ongoing O & E events to increase subcommittee capacity and come up with ideas/topics for future Capacity Building Projects, CBPs.
  - BAH USCC & ARDI Black History Month Event Planning - Meetings will be held in the month of January & beyond to secure date & time, venue, guest speakers, catering, etc.
  - Review of Annual Update and opportunity to give input via: [MHSA Announcements - Department of Mental Health \(lacounty.gov\)](#)
  - Transitioning to 3-year Plan in the coming months
  - Input of leadership from the various UsCCs, CCs, and SAACs
  - Queen Nina Womack presented on Kwanzaa Celebration in December 2023
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**Community Engagement (Public Comment):**

- Share community engagements via email to [BAHUsCC@dmh.lacounty.gov](mailto:BAHUsCC@dmh.lacounty.gov) for general distribution
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**Community Event Announcements**

- Continue discuss on 2-year Retreat

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**Upcoming Meetings** (first Thursday of the month,  
10am-12pm): 1/4/2024

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

323-776-6996, Conference ID: 101 721 830#

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