

**Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health  
Stakeholder Engagement Unit  
Black & African Heritage Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC) Subcommittee Meeting  
Minutes Thursday, December 7, 2023 - 10 am-12 pm**

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WELCOME

**Introductions/Check-In**

Co-Chairs: Romalis Taylor and Queen Nina Womack.

Attendees: Blanca Watson, Bostwick Caitlin, Chell Le, Donnise Vonner, Dr. Karen Gunn, Ebony Dolphin, Erica Melbourne, Nakeya Fields, Gregory Parker, Fireflies.ai Notet, Joyce Sales, Keith Coleman, Kerry McIntyre, Kimberly, Kirsten Pannell, Koby Rodriguez, Leslie Dishman, MC Harris, Nina's OtterPilot, Reba Stevens, Sade Richardson, Senait Admassu, Tora Miller, Wendy Cabil, Yvonne's OtterPilot.

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

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**Approval of Minutes:**

- **11/2/2023** Minutes approved: Wendy Cabil,
- Seconded: Senait Admassu

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**DMH Updates**

Mirtala Parada Ward provided Capacity Building Concepts Updates 2022 - 2023; FY 2023 – 2024

- Outstanding UsCC Capacity Building Projects: Seven SOWs have been completed and send out to procurement. Reference quotes for these projects have been secured.
- Two projects are out to solicitation; My Brother's Keeper & Prevention Works for Communities.
- The process is the following. Completed SOWs with quotes are sent to the procurement department, which is internal to DMH. Once procurement processes them, it goes to Internal Services Department (ISD). Once this happens BAH UsCC Subcommittee members will get an e-mail from Dr. Yaralyan letting you know the project has gone out for solicitation. We are requesting 30 days for this process. When the projects are released for bidding, we cannot engage in questions asked about the projects; we will differ you back to ISD to respond to questions.
- Mirtala also informed BAH Subcommittee members that interviews have been conducted with two potential candidates for permanent BAH Liaison position, but we have not been successful in selecting a liaison yet. First candidate declined the position due to having personal/family health struggles. Second candidate had a great deal of clinical experience, but not enough practice in community psychology, as a result did not feel comfortable holding the position. We will continue to interview potential qualified candidates for this position.

Mirtala Parada Ward also provided the following updates:

- Supervising Clinical Psychologist has been hired to provide supervisory support to UsCC Liaisons. She will attend the next BAH UsCC Subcommittee meeting and be introduced to the group.

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- California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions (CIBHS), Leslie Dishman, presented on the Life Links Resources Books/Request for Proposals, its goals, purpose & completed work.

**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.
  - Topics & Ideas for BAH UsCC Capacity Project Proposals FY 2024 – 2025.
  - Action Plan
  
  - 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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