

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Access for All UsCC Minutes

January 10, 2024

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attendees: **Maria Elena Arauco, Aaron Icedo, Racquel Decipeda, Junko Nagamatsu, Ruth Wen, Maria Tan, Amy Kay, Irma Velasquez, Carol Kou, Erik Escareno, Alison Freeman, Cody Hanable, Amy Kay, Héctor Ramirez, Ismael Maldonado, Ann Marie Yamada, Wendy Blanco, Gabriela Velasquez, Mercedes Moreno**

DMH staff: **Angel Baker, Alex Elliott, Oliver Harris, Mirtala Parada Ward, Jennifer Alquijay, Jenny Nguyen, Elaine Waldman, riKu Matsuda, Suyapa Umanzor, Tracy Tisino**

Microsoft Team: **Keith Wells, Shubham Jadhau, Saurabh Singh**

Interpreters and captioners: Alex (Spanish), Lucy (Spanish), Darcy (ASL), Sharon (ASL), Isabel (CARTS) and Joseph (CARTS)

Agenda Items	Discussion and Recommendations
Welcome and Disability Etiquette	Héctor opened the meeting and shared disability etiquette. Dr. Freeman introduced herself as well.
Approve December Minutes	Dr. Freeman called for motion to approve. Motion to approve by Racquel Decipeda, seconded by Junko Nagamatsu.
Co-chair Elections	Racquel Decipeda introduced herself as the co-founder of Hearts4Sight, a non-profit for those who are blind and visually impaired. She is interested in representing the needs of the blind and visually impaired at Access for All UsCC. Héctor Ramirez introduced themselves as a consumer of DMH running for a second term as co-chair. They are a disability advocate, a person with autism and work to increase access to mental health for all communities. They shared about surviving intimate partner violence and state violence. The focus of their work will be to ensure the county follows state

	<p>and federal laws. They raised the issue of accessibility as a crisis, particularly for BIPOC living with disabilities. They are a person with multi-disabilities. They shared if it's not accessible for one person, it's not accessible to them. Nothing about us without us.</p> <p>Elaine called for any additional eligible candidates.</p> <p>Elaine will send survey to 13 eligible voters and email group results of election.</p> <p>Dr. Freeman asked folks to share if they've had trouble accessing the meeting.</p> <p>Dr. Freeman will remain a co-chair.</p> <p>Ismael Maldonado (SALT 2 co-chair) advocating about ADA and Title V (effective communication) violations. We need a manual for SALTS and UsCCs.</p> <p>Héctor and Dr. Freeman acknowledge and agree with idea of manual.</p>
DMH Update	<p>Mirtala Parada Ward encourages group to engage in brainstorming for capacity building projects in the coming months.</p> <p>Update on ASL clinician, A. Grimes: currently has full case load, working to make sure her services are countywide</p> <p>Héctor asked for a copy of Mirtala's presentation</p> <p>Dr. Freeman asked to hear from Angel Baker and the proposal to senior management. 10-point plan presented to management.</p> <p>Angel clarified the proposal for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community was drafted by Dr. Byrd informed by input/feedback given during subcommittee meetings. The proposal is currently in review. Once available, it will be brought back to group.</p> <p>Héctor inquired about the MHSA proposals submitted by Héctor and Dr. Escareño.</p> <p>Angel confirmed the Microsoft Team is in the meeting to support with technical support.</p>

	<p>We will invite MHSA unit to give update in future meeting. We will do a better job communicating this year so the right people are at the meeting to answer the questions. Carol commented DMH needs to establish an oversight committee with experts from community and ADA experts Mirtala will report back on the manual and communication flow.</p> <p>Irma commented year after year, the same excuses. The services need to be for the people right now. Héctor called attention to the lack of services for people in jails and unhoused. Marginalization and gatekeeping in the dept.</p> <p>Dr. Freeman raised issues about barriers to bring in experts. Irma said we need someone who will actually do the work, and who would like to look after us and see a change for people with disabilities.</p> <p>Héctor asked question sharing information through email and Mirtala confirmed that all stakeholder groups should have same process.</p>
	<p>Ismael Maldonado introduced himself and shared concern about accessibility in meetings. DMH events are not always accessible for people who use wheelchairs (St. Anne's). Agendas not provided in large print, etc. Dr. Horn was informed by email.</p> <p>Angel said ADA unit started a log of complaints and there is also Patient's Rights.</p> <p>James shared services in US are just as bad as UK.</p>
Retreat planning	<p>Hector: Date is set for May 8th, need to identify location and budget. May need a subcommittee. Accessibility is key.</p> <p>Dr. Freeman asked group to email ideas for presentations.</p> <p>Irma- we need to take effective action. We need to go to the Board of Supervisors. They need to know we are exhausted of leaving our community behind.</p> <p>Racquel asked about location and target attendance</p> <p>Elaine said 35 regularly attend and 180 people are invited</p> <p>Hector aims for 100 people to attend; hybrid option</p>

	<p>Dr. Escareño recommended having a sit-in at the board. Take action. Gone to the BoS, what else is there to do? We've done a lot of procedural things but by taking things away and having an absence is scary. ADA sit-ins are effective. Complaint over a year ago is unnecessary.</p> <p>Dr. Freeman shared the group is asking for 1 full time person to handle all the issues raised.</p>
<p>DMH follow up for next meeting</p>	<p>Dr. Alquijay follow up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact Elaine if accessibility needs Create manual with communication component in a month Copy of ADA presentation Language around disabilities Update from Dr. Byrd and senior management Proposals getting lost or neglected. MHSA invitation to present WE will get right people to the meetings Access to experience consultants Standardizing communication with UsCCs Live demo of iPrevail Large print agendas Where do disability requests go? DMH staff gets their accommodations Budget for retreat Timeline to transition non-ASL clients for A. Grimes Request for Angela Kaufman, emergency response team Request for CA Dept of Civil Rights and DRC
<p>Closing</p>	<p>Dr. Freeman closed meeting.</p> <p>"Access is Love" is theme for next meeting, Feb 14, 2024.</p>