

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

**Welcome/Introductions**

**Present:** Ana Bernal, Mikey Fields, Bill Sive, Merry Meyers, Cynthia Ruffin, Hector Ramirez, Rex Wilde, Eden Luna, Paul Vallejo, Alex Salazar, Mark Gonzalez, Alexis Glenn, Jennifer Yates, Jennifer Jiries, Shawn Griffin, Brooke Balestreri, Mahtab Javed Siddiqui, Vanessa Cervantes Westwood, Alex Blane, Joyce Ma, Daphne, La Londa Alex, Toni Craigs-Thomas, Andrea Aoun

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

**Getting To Know You** – Daphne shared about herself.

**March 2024 Meeting Minutes** – Meeting minutes approved (first-Bill Sive, second-Cynthia Ruffin).

**Co-Chair/Liaison Updates**

- Co-Chair Updates
  - The subcommittee continues to look for a delegate to participate in the regular MHSA CPT meetings. Anyone interested should email Kelly at [KeWilkerson@dmh.lacounty.gov](mailto:KeWilkerson@dmh.lacounty.gov).
  - Both current co-chairs will be ending their terms in August. As a result, new co-chair elections will need to take place. Anyone interested in nominating themselves or another member should email Kelly ([KeWilkerson@dmh.lacounty.gov](mailto:KeWilkerson@dmh.lacounty.gov)).
- July meeting date – Kelly let everyone know that the July meeting would be taking place on a County holiday. As a result, a survey will be sent out to the membership to confirm if members would prefer to cancel the meeting for that month, or shift to the following Thursday (7/11/24).
- UsCC Retreat updates – Kelly reminded everyone that the retreat will take place on Saturday, 5/11 from 10am-2pm at DMH Headquarters (510 S. Vermont Ave., Terrace Level Conference Rooms, Los Angeles, 90020). Members can RSVP at <https://forms.office.com/g/TnjbEKbr4Z>. Catering will be provided by the culinary program at the LA LGBT Center.
  - Question regarding the availability of PPE for the retreat – Kelly and Jennifer to explore options.

**DMH Updates**

- Jennifer Alquijay provided updates including the ongoing review of the UsCC bylaws at the leadership level. Jennifer also updated members that future capacity building projects will need to be implemented in the fiscal year they were budgeted for (i.e. FY 24-25 upcoming).
- Kelly shared the upcoming timeline for projects:

- **All proposals to be submitted by 4/25/24.** Proposals will be presented at the May meeting on 5/4/24. If needed, a second ad hoc meeting will be scheduled to finish any proposal presentations. Following all presentations, voting members will rank all proposals for the four different focus areas:
  - Internet safety/mental health and social media
  - Harm reduction – fentanyl, education and awareness, Naloxone distribution, etc.
  - Aging in place, how to plan for the future for folks who never thought they would make it
  - Suicide awareness and prevention for LGBTQIA2-S youth
- After voting is completed, the top selected projects will move forward to Statement of Work phase. The goal is for all projects to go out for solicitation at the end of June so they can be implemented at the start of the Fiscal Year.

#### **FY 24-25 Capacity Building Projects – Proposal Presentations**

- Shawn Griffin presented the “Having Our Say/CAP” project proposal focused on aging in place. Proposal will be shared with members.
- Eden Luna presented the “Reality” (tentative name) project proposal focused on harm reduction. Proposal will be shared with members once finalized.
- Daphne presented a project proposal focused on suicide awareness and prevention for former foster youth and unhoused LGBTQIA2-S youth (project name pending). Proposal will be shared with members once finalized.

#### **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 May 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - The Panthera Project – Project extended and will be completed by May 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - Neurodivergent Voices Album Project – currently in second phase including artist recruitment.
  - Liberation Workshop Series Project – currently in third phase including hosting the series.
  - LGBTQIA2-S Violence Prevention Lab Project – currently in second phase including participant recruitment.
  - LGBTQIA2-S Housing Listening Sessions Project – currently in third phase including hosting the sessions.
  - Proyecto Mariposa Monarca – currently in second phase including participant recruitment.
  - Transforming Community Care: API LGBTQ+ Mental Health and Wellness Project – currently in fourth phase including participant recruitment for wellness workshops.
  - Two-Spirit Storytelling Project – currently in third phase including Storyteller gatherings.
  - Bi+ Affirming Mentorship and Storytelling Lab – currently in third phase including hosting Lab.

#### **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):** 5/2/24, 6/6/24, **7/11/24**, 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/>