

# LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

## Access for All UsCC Minutes

April 10, 2024

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attendees: **Maria Elena Arauco, Aaron Icedo, Racquel Decipeda, Ruth Wen, Maria Tan, Sarah Murad, Irma Velasquez, Gabriela Velasquez, Cody Hanable, Natalia Magana, Héctor Ramirez, Ann Marie Yamada, Mercedes Moreno, Commissioner Fran Sereseres, Commissioner Carlos Benavides, Wendy Blanco, Kevin Soun, Megan Hobza, Rudolpho Perez, Esther Perez-Wiley, Madeline Gonzales, Junko Nagamatsu**

DMH staff: **Darlesh K. Horn, Mirtala Parada Ward, Hyun Kyung Lee, Robert Byrd, Martin Jones, Sharon Little, Keianna Crenshaw, Rubou Sous, Mirtala Parada Ward, Jennifer Alquijay, Jenny Nguyen, riKu Matsuda, Suyapa Umanzor, Tracy Tisino, Martha Ortiz, Yue Hua Xu, Jo Ann Freeman, Angel Baker, Stacy Anne Smith, Francisco Rodriguez**

Microsoft Team: **Keith Wells, Shubham Jadhav, John Palacio**

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

Agenda Items	Discussion and Recommendations
Welcome and Disability Etiquette	Héctor Ramirez opened the meeting and shared the disability etiquette. Co-chair Racquel Decipeda and DMH liaison riKu Matsuda introduced themselves. Microsoft support folks were introduced.
Land Acknowledgment	Héctor gave the land acknowledgment and shared the link to the LA City/County Native American Indian Commission- <a href="https://lanaic.lacounty.gov/">https://lanaic.lacounty.gov/</a>
Approve March Minutes	Racquel Decipeda called for motion to approve. Motion to approve by Héctor Ramirez, seconded by Racquel. Motion passed with no objection.
DMH Update	Dr. Darlesh Horn, Division Chief over the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Administration & Oversight Division expressed gratitude to be in shared space with community and a high level update on the Mental Health Services Act. Dr. Horn updated on the planning process and the four major workgroups: housing, outpatient care system, workforce and education and prevention and early intervention. Dr. Horn reviewed the timeline for the two-year plan.

	<p>Dr. Horn offered to provide documents in large print and various languages. Dr. Horn emphasized the need for documents to be accessible in order for people to give feedback prior to board approval. Dr. Horn spoke about implementation and</p>
<p>Co-chair Update</p>	<p>Héctor acknowledged the fast change between liaisons, Elaine and riKu, caused stress and anguish with co-chairs (Héctor and Dr. Freeman). After meeting with DMH management about their concerns, Dr. Freeman decided to resign as co-chair. Dr. Freeman sent an email to the group explaining her departure. She was offered an opportunity to speak and declined. Héctor acknowledged the courage necessary to become a co-chair and the significant learning curve because of the system (not the UsCC). They mentioned the expectations from co-chairs is burdensome.</p> <p>Héctor thanked Dr. Freeman for her service and wished her good luck. Héctor encouraged others to become co-chair and requested an onboarding process from the department. Héctor invited riKu to share and he thanked the co-chairs and Elaine for supporting him in the transition.</p> <p>Elaine expressed gratitude and appreciation for the co-chairs and everyone in the UsCC. She said, "I wanted to share with you how much of a sense of honor I have felt in serving as your liaison over the past year. I have learned so much from you. I would like to thank the extraordinary cochairs. Just, the depth and breadth and blood, sweat and tears you have put into this collective group is profound and is remarkable.</p> <p>I say that having been to lots of different meetings over lots of decades. This group and this set of individuals coming together in such a cohesive inspired way has been very moving to me personally and professionally. Thank you. Access is love. I learned that from you, Hector. This dedication that you and the group have demonstrated and your critical input, fearless input, necessary input has been palpable and so vital. I'm very grateful to each of you and the collective for having had the experience of working with you. I'm really happy that I get to work in a division with riKu and get to know him. I'm really excited to hear what goes on over time with this group. I wish you all good health, peace and abundance in your efforts, individual and collective. May the force be with you."</p> <p>Héctor thanked Elaine for her work and expressed relief hearing from her. Amy Kay, Cody Hanable, Martin Jones and others expressed their love and gratitude for Elaine.</p>
<p>Capacity Building Project Update</p>	<p>riKu updated there are two projects in the works that are 99% completed. One is the African American Family Mental Health and Disability Awareness Project and the Mental Wellness Art Series for Young Adults with Disabilities.</p> <p>Mirtala explained the three-layered process to complete the SOW process and award vendors. She explained the logistical struggles with the Internal Services Department (ISD).</p>

	<p>Héctor briefly explained the brainstorming and voting process for the capacity building projects.</p> <p>Amy reminded us to be sure vendors are serving people with all disabilities. In the past, there has been difficulty with vendors producing work that isn't helpful for the Access for All UsCC.</p> <p>Mirtala responded to Amy's concerned and excused herself to another meeting. Mirtala encouraged people to attend the new vendor orientation.</p> <p>Héctor said the information wasn't shared with the group and others chimed in to share they hadn't received the invitation to the orientation. riKu will follow up.</p>
Retreat Planning	<p>Racquel shared the retreat will be on May 8 from 11am-3pm at DMH Headquarters, 510 S. Vermont, Terrace Level. Parking is free and there will be food. Please let riKu know if you plan to attend. riKu will send a form to RSVP.</p> <p>Héctor shared the background on why we're having a retreat, to focus on priorities, to build community with other Access for All UsCC members.</p> <p>Amy clarified it's only for UsCC members.</p> <p>riKu shared that Dr. Horn has agreed to facilitate the retreat.</p> <p>Dr. Horn shared that she is honored to facilitate and wants to make sure that we premeet to have a solid agenda. She invited everyone to share feedback and ideas for the retreat agenda.</p> <p>Brief discussion about budget and food.</p>
Announcements	<p><a href="#">Abilities Expo</a>, 39th CSUN Assistive Technology Conference, "<a href="#">STUCK: Los Angeles County's Abuse and Neglect of People on Mental Health Conservatorships in Jail and Locked Psychiatric Facilities</a>", MHSa process, participate in the feedback, DMH employee shared that as a result of attending Access for All UsCC meetings, she has received the devices and accommodations requested since 2022.</p>
DMH Follow-Up Items	<p>Dr. Alquijay follow up:</p> <p>New:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make sure all projects are accessible to all people living with disabilities.</li> <li>Recruit vendors with lived experience and subject matter expertise</li> <li>Send vendor recruitment meeting information to all</li> <li>Schedule MHSa update for April</li> </ul> <p>Old:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create manual with communication component in a month</li> <li>Copy of ADA presentation</li> <li>Language around disabilities</li> <li>Update from Dr. Byrd and senior management</li> </ul>

	<p>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>
<p>Labor  Acknowledgment</p>	<p>Racquel Decipeda gave the labor acknowledgement</p>
<p>Closing</p>	<p>Racquel reminded everyone to attend the next meeting on April 10, 10am-12pm. Héctor thanked interpreters, captioners and everyone for a great meeting.</p>