

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Access for All UsCC Minutes

June 12, 2024

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attendees: **Maria Elena Arauco, Racquel Decipeda, Maria Tan, Lourdes Rabello, Cody Hanable, Héctor Ramirez, Amy Kay, Ann Marie Yamada, Commissioner Carlos Benavides, Rudolpho Perez, Esther Perez-Wiley, Madeline Gonzales, Junko Nagamatsu, Robert Swartz, Judith Davila, Junko Nagamatsu, Sydney Tabizon, Lindsey Richard, Bethzabet Estrada, Dr. Erik Escareño, Dr. Ryan Caldwell**

DMH staff: **Dr. Darlesh K. Horn, Mirtala Parada Ward, Hyun Kyung Lee, Robert Byrd, Martin Jones, Jenny Nguyen, riKu Matsuda, Suyapa Umanzor, Martha Ortiz, Yue Hua Xu, Angel Baker, Alex Elliott, Kelly Wilkerson**

Microsoft Team: **Keith Wells**

Interpreters and captioners: Alex (Spanish), Claudia (Spanish), Mara (ASL), Sharon (ASL), Richard (CARTS)

Agenda Items	Discussion and Recommendations
Welcome and Disability Etiquette	Héctor Ramirez opened the meeting and shared the disability etiquette.
Land Acknowledgment	Héctor gave the land acknowledgment and shared the link to the LA City/County Native American Indian Commission- https://lanaic.lacounty.gov/
Introductions	Racquel Decipeda suggested a round of introductions for all attendees. Everyone introduced themselves with name, pronouns, where they work and a physical description.
Approve May Meeting Minutes	Racquel Decipeda called for motion to approve. Lourdes Rabello noted that she was at the meeting and not included in the minutes. Amy Kay corrected the spelling of the organization GLAD. Motion to approve by Maria Elena Arauco, seconded by Lourdes Rabello. Motion passed with no objection.
DMH Update	Mirtala Parada Ward gave an update on the capacity building project plan for 2024-2025. She reviewed the five projects already approved for this year and informed the group they

	<p>will have an opportunity to implement 2-3 more projects in this fiscal year. The next step is for the group to brainstorm new capacity building project ideas. Mirtala reminded the group that projects must be under \$100,000 and completed by June 30, 2025.</p> <p>Dr. Darlesh Horn shared the Client Activity Fund (CAF) orientation date will be moved to a later time to give folks time to request accommodations and plan to attend. Dr. Horn explained the MHSA process is in implementation phase as the transition from MHSA to BHSA begins. Dr. Horn encouraged all to participate in the process. Dr. Escareño inquired about the status of nine proposals previously submitted. Dr. Horn explained the process did not allow formal communication about the proposals. Dr. Horn said there are several pathways to implement proposals. Dr. Horn said she is working to make the process easier and more transparent and accessible. Dr. Escareño emphasized equity in decision-making as a group (Access for All UsCC). Hector encouraged DMH to take a trauma-informed approach when working with people with disabilities who have been historically exploited. Dr. Horn humbly expressed gratitude for the call-in and committed to holding herself accountable. Dr. Escareño thanked Dr. Horn and requested a separate meeting to follow-up. Dr. Horn agreed and welcomed the meeting.</p> <p>riKu shared a reminder that the Juneteenth event on June 29th is still accepting vendors.</p>
Co-chair Update	<p>Racquel and Hector briefly reported on the retreat and retreat outcomes from May 8th. They reviewed the summary and offered constructive criticism around hybrid meeting accessibility. riKu mentioned the idea of forming an outreach and engagement committee.</p>
Capacity Building Project Brainstorming	<p>Hector gave an overview of the capacity building projects and the history of Access for All projects. They recapped some of the discussion from the retreat on May 8 and opened the floor for suggestions including ways for people with disabilities to access nature. No one offered any ideas so riKu suggestion moving the discussion to a "special meeting." He will coordinate with co-chairs to select a date. Hector shared a few projects from other groups: graphic novel, newsletter, podcast, YouTube, PSAs on the radio, billboards, etc. Hector emphasized the need for a transportation project especially given the upcoming Olympics/Paralympics. Housing is another topic of interest/concern, educating providers about the new ADA rules. Hector emphasized that once a project is proposed, it belongs to the Department of Mental Health. Mirtala emphasized the projects come from the UsCC members. The methodologies are designed by community members to best serve specific groups/communities in culturally proficient ways. Brainstorming was tabled for special meeting to take place before the next monthly meeting on July 10th.</p>
Announcements	<p>DMH- Hearts4Sight Foundation- Friends and Family Support Group Launch (starting in August) looking for participants, Juneteenth (6/29), LGBTQIA2-S+ Pride (6/30)</p>

Labor Acknowledgment	Racquel Decipeda gave the labor acknowledgement.
Closing	Héctor reminded everyone July is Disability Pride Month and thanked interpreters, captioners and everyone for a great meeting.