

**Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
API Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC)
Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2024, 2:00 pm-4:00 pm**

Present: Ann Marie Yamada, Blanca Watson, Catherine Kaila Manantan, Chanthol Oung, ChinYa Hsiung, Commissioner Dalglish, Crystal Zeng, Emily Wu Truong, Hanyi Li, Jennifer Norman, Jennifer Yates, JR Kuo, Julia Iwahori, Kerry Chhay, Maria N Tan, Mariko Kahn, Michele Hinh, Moses Lim, Norio Iwahori, Parag Sawhney, Payal Sawhney, Paster Peter Kim, Richer San, Rocco Cheng, Rosario Ribleza, Sanghak Kan, Sheetal S. Ayyatan, Sheila Wu, Sithea San, Susan Park, Violeta Leones, Winnie Hsieh, Yue Hua Xu, Zeel Ahir
Korean Interpreters: Samantha Yu, Sun Lim
DMH Admin: Hyun Kyung Lee, Jennifer Alquijay

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
Welcome & Introductions	Co-Chairs and Subcommittee Members
Land Acknowledgment	Co-Chairs and Subcommittee Members LA County Land Acknowledgment: https://lacounty.gov/government/about-la-county/land-acknowledgment/
Review of Meeting Minutes	The meeting minutes of April 29, 2024, were approved. Motion by Rocco Cheng to approve minutes and seconded by Sithea San.
DMH Updates	Jennifer Alquijay provided the following updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UsCC bylaws and Code of Conduct have been updated. Dr. Horn (or her staff) will join the July 2024 meeting to discuss them. • We are in the process of submitting the Capacity Building Projects from the previous fiscal year to the LA County Internal Service Department.

Capacity Building Project Updates

- Three (3) API UsCC Capacity Building Projects of FY 23-24 are currently in progress. The vendors of those projects were invited to the meeting and shared their progress and status:
 - 1) API Recovery Talk Project by Rocco Cheng: It is a storytelling project. Each presenter will share he/his story about mental health recovery journey in English and/or an Asian language, and they will be filmed. These stories will later be shared with communities. Ten (10) bilingual presenters were recruited (Chinese, Khmer, Korean, Pilipino, and Vietnamese). The participants are diverse in their languages, cultures, ages, immigration status, etc. They have attended training meetings and coaching sessions. The community event locations and facilities have been secured. The participants will receive stipends at the end of the project. The community events will take place in August and September 2024. The final report will be provided in September or October 2024.
 - 2) Filipino-American Youth Wellness Comic Book Project by Jennifer Norman and her team (Human Beauty Movement): They recruited 15 Filipino-American participants, ages 16-24: 10 from San Fernando Valley (SA 2), 4 from LA Metro (SA 3), and 1 from San Gabriel Valley (SA 4). They provided the mental health workshop sessions as well as comic book art sessions for the participants. Each participant has been working on creating a brief comic book illustrating how mental health issues impact their life. Their final comic book artworks will be presented and shared with the public/community at the community exhibit on July 11, 2024. Also, their comic book artworks will be digitalized and shared with API community through social media. She invited the API UsCC community members to the event and provided the RSVP link for the exhibit.
 - 3) Storytelling Theater for Healing and Social Justice Project by JR Kuo: Six (6) Asian immigrants were recruited to serve as cast members for the short play production and performance. Acting classes and coaching were provided to the participants, and a play script was developed based on discussions of the participants' mental health experiences as Asian American immigrants. They have been practicing and doing rehearsals. They will go to various community facilities to provide live performances about mental health. Additionally, they plan to have community discussions and education regarding mental health issues after their performances to increase awareness and reduce mental health stigma. As of June 24, 2024, seven (7) organizations have agreed to host their performances.
- Proposal Selection Results: API UsCC Subcommittee members with voting privilege participated in voting and ranking the proposals presented for the upcoming fiscal year. The voting closed on April 25, 2024. The top two (2) proposals selected are: 1) Oral History Project for Cambodian American Families; 2) Community Resilience 101.

Retreat Summary & Follow-Up Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richer San provided a summary of the API UsCC in-person retreat which was held on May 30, 2024. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Overall, it was a great opportunity to meet the API UsCC members and have in-person communications. A total 28 people registered for the retreat and 16 people attended. ➢ Three (3) objectives of the retreat were: 1) Strengthen connections among committee members and foster greater collaboration; 2) Gain a greater understanding of the Capacity Building Projects application process and implementation; 3) Identify ways to increase API UsCC membership and commitment. ➢ There were suggestions from the retreat attendees to increase membership such as providing stipends, developing a flyer, and offering more guidelines. The information about the capacity building project process was also provided during the retreat. • Mariko Kahn clarified the stipend suggestion and emphasized the importance of providing proper guidelines and resources. • Emily Wu Truong highlighted the importance of transparent use of Countywide Activity Fund (CAF) funding and clear communication with communities. She also emphasized collaboration in funding and projects for communities.
Community Announcements & Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rosario Ribleza announced the CAF orientation, which will take place on July 17, 2024 at 10:00 am. If anyone is interested in obtaining CAF stipends, you need to attend the CAF orientation training. • Emily Wu Truong announced that she would facilitate the LGBTQ support groups with the NAMI Glendale starting on July 25, 2024. She also mentioned the importance of more support for community members and shared her difficult experience related to 51/50. • Susan Park provided information about the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles and recommended exploring the Community Health Worker training and/or the Peer Support training for more resources.
Follow-Up Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reminder email about the CAF orientation will be sent to the API UsCC subcommittee. • A retreat summary note will be emailed to the API UsCC subcommittee as requested.
<p>Upcoming Meeting: July 22, 2024 (2:00 pm-4:00 pm)</p> <p>For more information about the API UsCC, please see its website: https://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mhsa/uscc/asian-pacific-islander-api-uscc/</p>	