

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Latino UsCC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2024

2pm – 4pm via Microsoft TEAMS

Co-Chairs Present:

Betty Mendoza, Gabriela Gonzalez

Members Present:

Mercedes Moreno, Victor Garcia, Martha Ortiz, Amanda Rivera de Martinez, Teresa Alejandro, Christian Ponciano, Maria Isabel Nuno, Xiomara Lopez, Maria Villicana, Jesus Alejandro, Karla Garcia, Zuleima Molgado, Magnolia Rodriguez-Alvarado, Claudio Razo, Julia Russell, Becerra Jones, Kimberly Garcia Rodriguez, David Laine, Regina Ramirez, Maria Guerra, Patricia Veliz Macal, Irma Martinez, Irma Velasquez, Maria Elena Arauco, Cecilia Garces, Ana Pacheco Esquivel, Barbara Rabelo Munoz Maya, Dayanna Covarrubias, Alex Salazar, Dr. Kristan Venegas, Angel Marin Fluxus, Lety, Elio V, Erica Corral, Jennifer Hernandez, Hilda Guzman, Claudio Fierro, Lety Ascencio, Suyapa Umanzor, Barbar Rabelo Mundo Maya, Jessica Hernandez, Bernie Moreno (MSUser 245), Gabriela Velasquez, Commissioner Dalglish, Stacey Anne Smith, Darlesh Horn, Rosario Moreno, Mercedes Aguirre, Maria Nuno, Sara Mijares, Maritza Lebron

Presenters:

Kalene Gilbert, Kara Taguchi

DMH Admin Present:

Jennifer Alquijay, riKu Matsuda, Kelly Wilkerson, Mirtala Parada Ward

Agenda Items	Discussion
Welcome & Introductions	Members were asked to introduce themselves in the chat and on mic
Meeting Minutes	February 2024 minutes will be reviewed in the coming month.
Co-Chair Report Out	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Guzman’s resignation - impact on the Latino group - safe space to share some thoughts.• Advocate for the community, teacher, educating us on DMH processes and capacity building,• Departure was so sudden - wondered about the projects we were working on• Advocating for Latinos - had integrity, values,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impressed as a man and a leader, kept group united, kept us well organized, pointed out when we made factual errors on information, wonderful leader - he was fair, will miss him • Changes in staffing is hard - close to Mirtala before she left, missed Mirtala when she left before • Appreciate Mirtala and the staff at DMH - under a lot of pressure • Dr. Guzman, appreciate all your hard work • Worry about the loss of leadership in our Latino community • Email about his leaving was a surprise, worry about the big system of MH • Dr. Guzman's email expressed his gratitude to everyone who participated in the mtgs, and for their interest in health equity for the community - and that he's learned so much from us, and leaves with much respect, admiration, • Some want to write a letter to DMH due to impact Dr. Guzman had on their life and for his advocating for Latinos • Mirtala discussed her experience with Dr. Guzman - hiring him on, his eagerness to help give a voice to the voiceless, and, unfortunately for the community and the department, he resigned. • Mirtala will continue to serve as the liaison for the committee until a new person comes on to replace him. • Mirtala also reminded the group of her own immigration experience from El Salvador, and her personal understanding of the immigrant experience without English speaking parents. • Others said - not fair for Mirtala, we need more Spanish speaking leadership in DMH • Co-chairs reported meeting with Mirtala and expressing what they were looking for in a new liaison •
<p>DMH Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latino Retreat on Friday, March 29th at DMH headquarters in Koreatown - from 9:00am-1:00pm - lunch will be served. Dr. Guzman planned for 60 people • Purpose of the retreat is to highlight 3-5 goals that this UsCC wants to accomplish next year on behalf of the 5 million Latinos in LAC. • Address for retreat. 510 S Vermont - free parking; Building starts on Terrace level- 9th floor • Dr. Rigo Rodriguez will facilitate the retreat and anyone else we want • Took time to consider another facilitator from the community - Patricia volunteered to help facilitate • Retreat to be conducted in Spanish • Will focus on gaps in services • Discussion of how some members function better in Spanish, and others function better in English

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community wants data
Data Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kalene Gilbert and Kara Taguchi - presented powerpoint with community data Questions and Answers from subcommittee members Request to have presentation zero in on how this directly impacts the Latino community and the concern about doing more outreach, but not having enough staff to provide services
Discussion Re: projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reminder - projects must be under \$100K Proposal Guidelines and Fillable PDF (See attachment for pdf of form) Need to fill out a completed proposal in order to have project considered by the committee Need to go over Brainstorm ideas and have people submit proposals for committee consideration How AI-AN data is not collected accurately - example of misidentifying someone as Caucasian in recent home buying interaction. Maybe community needs assessment? Other ideas Docuseries? Video game therapy outreach? Discussion on some of Dr. Escareno's
Capacity Building Projects – Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AI/AN Community Engagement Campaign – project is wrapping up, vendor to present at a future meeting. AI/AN Mending the Hoop Project – project is wrapping up, vendor to present at a future meeting. AI/AN Youth Graphic Novel Project – currently in phase 2, in the process of recruiting participants. AI/AN Cooking for Wellness Project – currently out for re-solicitation until 1/9/24. AI/AN Community Garden Project – currently out for solicitation until 1/9/24. MMIWG2-S Awareness Campaign Project – solicitation closed 12/11/23. Pending award by ISD. AI/AN Elder Mental Health Support Project – currently out for solicitation until 1/9/24. Suicide in Native Communities Project – solicitation closed, no bids received. Will be re-solicited. AI/AN Intergenerational Storytelling Project – this project will be revisited this year at a future meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kelly and Mirtala met with PIO to discuss any copyright concerns, legal issues, and intellectual property.
Community Announcements & Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send any resources to Jennifer via email (jalquijay@dmh.lacounty.gov) to be sent out to the listserv.

Closing Prayer	Meeting closed with Prayer.
Meeting Minutes	All meeting minutes are available on the DMH website: https://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mhsa/uscc/american-indian-alaska-native-ai-an-uscc/american-indian-alaska-native-ai-an-uscc-meeting-minutes/
Upcoming Meetings & Links	<p><u>Next Meetings (first Wednesday of the month, all meetings 2-4pm):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4/3/24, 5/1/24, 6/5/24, 7/3/24, 8/7/24, 9/4/24, 10/2/24, 11/6/24, 12/4/24 <p>Join Microsoft Teams Meeting; 323-776-6996, Conference ID: 806 867 419#</p>