

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
American Indian / Alaska Native (AI/AN) UsCC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Jul 3, 2024

2pm – 4pm via Microsoft TEAMS

Co-Chairs Present: Shannon Rivers, Farrah Ferris

Members Present: Eva Powless, Jessica Mosher, Lesley Hunt, Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood, Dan Dickerson, Stephanie Mushrush, Claire Kobren, Chaundra Belton, Toni Craigs-Thomas, Wildflower Ontiveros, Bridget Garcia, Cesar Aranguri, Taylor Pulsifer, Ravena Soto, Iva Maes, Dria Yellowhair,

Presenter: None

DMH Admin Present: Jennifer Alquijay, Mirtala Parada Ward, Rosario Ribleza, Jamie Walker, Ken Shoulders, Keianna Crenshaw,

Agenda Items	Discussion
Welcome, Prayer, Land Acknowledgment & Introductions	Meeting opened with prayer. Members were asked to introduce themselves in the chat. Prayer Land Acknowledgment - Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood
Meeting Minutes	June 2024 minutes were reviewed and approved (1st – Farrah Ferris, 2nd – Eva Powless). Minutes were approved.
Co-Chair Report Out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farrah – please confirm your attendance is accurate in the minutes to make sure DMH has not missed anyone as it affects your voting eligibility. • Farrah – Mandatory CAF Orientation – July 17th – opportunity for participants to get paid for mtg attendance – up to \$150 per month for 3 mtgs (max). Must attend the CAF orientation – given 2x per year (July and Dec) • Thoughts and prayers to Leonard Peltier family – pray the appeal goes through – others in the case found not guilty – but he is in prison for being a “conspirator” • Positive things – Block party in Los Angeles over the weekend, celebration in Grant Park to raise awareness for mental health issues • In CA – returning 2800 acres back to the Shasta Indian Nation – largest land back here in CA

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership mtg – 3rd Wed of the month – give us comments or questions to take to leadership mtg
Presenter	<p>New Bylaws – Presented by Jamie Walker – MHSA representative to AI-AN mtg and Q and A Please email comments, feedback to MHSAdmin@dmh.lacounty.gov Dr. Horn’s team will provide updates as feedback when feedback is incorporated.</p>
DMH Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal Ideas picked by voting members – Food Sustainabilty, Addressing Negative verbiage, and Native Excellence • Mirtala updated on funding complications for UsCC’s – limited budget • IMPORTANT UPDATE – Mirtala was able to wrangle and negotiate FULL UsCC Budget (as of July 22nd). • Q & A about project and budget updates
Discussed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent discussion of LA county Land Acknowledgement – given by DMH staff instead of given by Native person – Comments and discussion about whether all Land acknowledgements should be given by a Native person – to honor Native peoples who are/have been directly affected. Farrah’s perspective is it should be done by Native person to further the dialogue around the purpose for Land Acknowledgement, and associated mental health issues. • Discussion about Land Ack – Farrah – important to do Land Acknowledgement - and saying it as a Prayer – more heartfelt, not just “recorded” • Stephanie Mushrush comment – thinks Land Ack can be shared by Native or Non-Native people – can be done genuinely by Non Native person – actually shows they are acknowledging that - whether the LA county one is done or the one by Julia Bagni, Mor powerful for a Non Native person to acknowledge “settler colonization.” Can be a good white anti-racist act. Don’t want it to be “lets have the Native token Indian come and do the Land Acknowledgement and so we’re good” – Acknowledge the intent – don’t want it to be an empty gesture. • Sylvia – many Natives happy to do it, and also, if others are doing it - heartfelt, coming from a good place, then its ok. • Shannon- there are hundreds of LA county mtgs, and it might not be possible for Nativer person to do Land Ack. At every mtg. And need to make sure its done in a good way -heart felt, genuine way.
Discussion Re: Capacity Building Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder - projects must be under \$100K • All projects MUST be completed by June 30, 2025. • Need an AdHoc mtg to go over proposal writing for SOWs

<p>Community Announcements & Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toni-Craigs-Thomas -Gala – sponsored by UAll – excellent – had speakers from tribal nations. Very welcoming, very well put together. Other tribal nations want to have similar gatherings in their communities. Toni inviting subcommittee members to next UAll event (they helped with transportation, clothes, ticket subsidies). • Toni will send information regarding upcoming events • Wildflower – Cooking for Wellness Project update – finished deliverable 1 last month – sharing feedback survey on project to subcommittee- promotional material and pre-test and post test. Deadline for feedback July 11th. • MMIWG – casting – getting input and approval from subcommittee • Elder Gathering – Avril Cordova and Virginia Carmelo – hosts for the upcoming elder gatherings. • Send any resources to Jennifer via email (jalquijay@dmh.lacounty.gov) to be sent out to the listserv.
<p>Closing Prayer</p>	<p>Meeting closed with Prayer - Eva</p>
<p>Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>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/</p>
<p>Upcoming Meetings & Links</p>	<p><u>Next Meetings (first Wednesday of the month, all meetings 2-4pm):</u> 8/7/24, 9/4/24, 10/2/24, 11/6/24, 12/4/24 Join Microsoft Teams Meeting; 323-776-6996, Conference ID: 806 867 419#</p>