

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

Aug 7, 2024

2pm – 4pm via Microsoft TEAMS

**Co-Chairs Present:** Shannon Rivers, Farrah Ferris

**Members Present:** Jessica Mosher, Jennifer Yates, Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood, Stephanie Mushrush, Eva Powless, Claire Kobren, Toni Craigs Thomas, Charlotte Lujan

**Presenter:** None

**DMH Admin Present:** Kelly Wilkerson, Mirtala Parada Ward, Rosario Ribleza, Evelyn Espinoza,

Agenda Items	Discussion
<b>Welcome, Prayer, Land Acknowledgment &amp; Introductions</b>	Meeting opened with prayer - Farrah. Members were asked to introduce themselves in the chat. Prayer  Land Acknowledgment/Native Wisdom - Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood Introductions
<b>Meeting Minutes</b>	July 2024 minutes were reviewed and approved (1 <sup>st</sup> – Jessica M, 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Farrah). Minutes were approved.
<b>Co-Chair Report Out</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Shannon- Full Svc Partnership – Native side - Change in numbers from 100 to 700 AI-AN members - how to interpret - in Sept doing deeper Data dive - hopefully info with age, population, etc.</li><li>Tribal members - new to area - what are some of our failures</li><li>Reminder - FSP - for people with severe and persistent Mental illness, sometimes combined with unhoused count, but sometimes need to have one or both to qualify for svcs</li></ul> Mirtala - upcoming Comm Planning Team mtg - yesterday started FSP - next round will be Housing and prevention, will ask MHSA to share slides so everyone will get it. Dept not collecting data per tribal affiliation - using equity tool more regularly.

	<p>Kelly - co-chair election updates - Farrah and Shannon wrapping up their terms. Little confusion around co-chair elections. In the future will have start in July. New co-chairs will serve a term from Nov through June of 2026. Mirtala - can have current co-chairs continue to finish the cycle in June 2025.</p> <p>- question from Sylvia - have co-chair ending staggered</p> <p>Mirtala - e.g. Shannon done in Nov. Can be elected to finish in June 2025. Farrah - is done next year? Moving forward - will try to stagger end dates so not two co-chairs end at the same time.</p> <p>Farrah - Talking about bylaws - SALTs - can you be a co-chair and have projects? SALTs have been able to do it? Worry about running for co-chairs and not being able to have a project. Farrah - may not choose to do another term. Will continue to be a part of the</p> <p>SALT and UsCC - budget is very different - our projects - we have to follow procurement law. Because projects go through solicitation and SALTs don't.</p> <p>Stipend is available for all attendees - but county employees are not eligible.</p> <p>Shannon- should be recognized as an Alaska Native person to be co-chair</p>
<b>Presenter</b>	<p><b>Carrie Johnons - Suicide in Native Communities Toolkit project update.</b></p> <p>- completed 3 out of 5 comm discussions - Long Beach, Commerce, Palmdale. 20 participants. About 7 pp didn't feel comfortable in a group - so did those individually. 2 More - Monterey Park, and Pomona. Feedback is amazing. Discussions are really rich. Working on outlining the toolkit based on the input. Plan after that is to develop the toolkit and the video</p> <p>- then will have the 2 larger listening sessions to present toolkit and get additional feedback before finalizing</p> <p>Questions - Sylvia - "listening sessions and videos" - how will that be used in the toolkit? Any consulting with individuals regarding LPS app? How that affects services? People who make 51/50 holds. How is that affecting the community? - Dr J - that hasn't come up - supporting people after the suicide death. Its not suicide prevention. How do you provide services - if their family can provide when they have experienced</p> <p>Questions - Jessica - "SI completion" - How are you putting in Indigenous blends? - getting feedback from community. PP wanted to make sure we are there to support them and support to Native organizations. Still need to finish two more roundtable and 2 larger community sessions - working on getting more input</p> <p>Question - Farrah - Project turning out differently - wanted to have the toolkit completed with the Indigenous lens and then presented to community for feedback.</p>

	<p>Kelly - designed to get feedback prior to creation and post toolkit feedback - continual feedback from community throughout the project. Proposal was focused on loss of person to suicide. Will get final input at the 2 larger listening sessions.</p> <p>Farrah - Planning is different than it was intended.</p> <p>Kelly - when the SOW - was developed. Was developed off the original proposal almost verbatim. Will share both the proposal and the SOW</p> <p>Indigenous Oaxacan community has had 9 suicides in the last year - have approached Shannon - figuring out how to approach this - mostly young men - Taco vendors - selling flowers, lonely, having a hard time. Indigenous and Alaska Native.</p> <p>Sylvia - MH promoters - for people for immigration - the first generation is the most at risk. But the dept is aware of it.</p> <p>Shannon - Indigenous approach to suicide -</p> <p>Mirtala - we have a Suicide Prev unit - can you send the directors to Mirtala so we connect them to Suicide Prevention Unit. Upcoming project Indigenous PSA's - to address the linguistic isolation, etc.</p> <p>Indigenous communities rarely call themselves Latino - so we want to approach it a little differently</p>
<b>DMH Updates</b>	<p><b><u>Jen</u></b> - Newest capacity building projects- request for reference quotes for new projects will be coming.</p> <p><b><u>Kelly</u></b> - attendance roster - 50% attendance over 6 month period.</p> <p><b><u>Kelly</u></b> - information session on Vendor Recruitment and Bidding Conference Information</p> <p><b><u>Mirtala</u></b> - alarming info about AI-AN infant mortality rates will share with the article.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2x the infant mortality as non-Hispanic whites.</li> <li>- 2.7x more likely than non Hisp white infants to die by accidental death before the age of 1,</li> <li>- 50% more likely to die from complications to low-birthweight compared to non Hisp white infants.</li> <li>- 3x as likely to receive late or no prenatal care</li> <li>- 70% more likely to smoke during pregnancy than non-Hisp white mothers.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Link to Article Below</u></b></p> <p><a href="#">Infant Mortality and American Indians/Alaska Natives</a></p>
<b>Discussion Re: Capacity Building Projects</b>	<p>Capacity Building Projects will be coming soon.</p>

<b>Community Announcements &amp; Resources</b>	<p>Nuggets of Knowledge - Sylvia - what does it mean to participate on boards and UsCC committees etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- in order to be an advocate - it helps in understanding the process of how things work.</li> <li>- knowing the law and your rights and responsibilities - ignorance is not a defense - help understand the intent, etc</li> <li>- how to be a part of a public meeting</li> <li>- State Council on Dev Disabilities - 4-part series - how to participate publicly</li> </ul> <p>Jessica Mosher - Cal Aim mtg - last Friday of the month from 2:00-3:00 - AI-AN mtg is diff from other Cal Aim mtgs.</p>
<b>Links Referenced in Mtg</b>	<p><b>1. <u>Link to Article Below</u></b>  <a href="#">Infant Mortality and American Indians/Alaska Natives</a></p> <p>2. <a href="#">Bidding for Projects Info Session Recording</a></p> <p>3. <b><u>August UsCC Meeting Recording Link Below</u></b>  <a href="#">Aug AI-AN Meeting Recording</a></p>
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Meeting closed with Prayer - Stephanie Mushrush
<b>Meeting Minutes</b>	<p><b>All meeting minutes are available on the DMH website:</b> <a href="https://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mhsa/uscc/american-indian-alaska-native-ai-an-uscc/american-indian-alaska-native-ai-an-uscc-meeting-minutes/">https://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mhsa/uscc/american-indian-alaska-native-ai-an-uscc/american-indian-alaska-native-ai-an-uscc-meeting-minutes/</a></p>
<b>Upcoming Meetings &amp; Links</b>	<p><b><u>Next Meetings (first Wednesday of the month, all meetings 2-4pm):</u></b>  10/2/24, 11/6/24, 12/4/24</p> <p><b><u>Join the meeting now</u></b>  Meeting ID: 274 059 398 422  Passcode: yp66mP  1 (323) 776-6996  Phone conference ID: 307 465 115#</p>