

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
DEPARTAMENTO DE SALUD MENTAL DEL CONDADO DE LOS ANGELES**

**Latino Underserved Cultural Communities ([UsCC](#)) Subcommittee
Subcomité de Comunidades Culturales Latinas Desatendidas**

Subcommittee Meeting Minutes/Minutas de la Reunión del Subcomité

9/17/2024

2pm – 4pm

virtual via Microsoft Teams/virtual a través de Microsoft Teams



Copresidentes presentes/Co-chairs presente: Gabriela Gonzalez

Facilitadora/Facilitator: Gabriela Gonzalez

Miembros presentes/Members present: Alex (*Spanish Interpreter*); Alice Noriega Torres; Angel Marin; Betty Mendoza; Charito Guerrero; Cindy Kim (*captioner*); Cirilo Garcia; Claudia Fierro; Dayana Covarrubias; Emanuel Cabrera; Eugenia Cervantes; Felix Menendez; Gabriela Gonzalez; Gabriela Velasquez; Idalia Gallardo; Irma Velasquez; Jennyfer Ibarra-McMahon; Jessica Valadez; Jorge Garcia; Karla Garcia; Laura Inguiez Segura; Lourdes Rabello; Dr. Luis Guzman; Maria Arauco; Maria Guerra; Maria Villicana; Maria Zamora; Marilu Garcia; Martha Ortiz; Mercedes Moreno; Norma Ruiz; Sofia Zarco; Susana Ascencion; Zuleima Molgado

1. Meeting Overview:

- The meeting was conducted primarily in Spanish with translation for English participants.
- A procedural update was given for participants attending via phone on how to raise hands and participate.

2. Attendance and Voting:

- Phone Participants were reminded to send emails for attendance tracking.
- A motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting was passed.
- Meeting Minutes approved by Ms. Maria Elena Arauco and Ms. Irma Velasquez

3. Key Topics Discussed:

- **Meeting Structure:** The group discussed holding two meetings in Spanish and one in English per trimester.

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- **Community Representation:** Emphasis on the need for more Latino representation in meetings to ensure proper voting during community discussions.

4. Projects and Budget:

- The main focus was on the projects for fiscal years 2023-2024 and upcoming 2024-2025.
- Completed projects for FY 2023-2024:
 - *Latina Power*
 - *Culture, Mind-Body, and Health*
 - *Breaking Bread* (in progress)
- Additional projects for 2024-2025 include:
 - *Public Service Announcements (PSA) for Indigenous Communities*
 - *Student Wellness Leadership*
 - *Latino Outreach via Social Media*
- **Budget & Financial Concerns:**
 - \$700,000 was allocated for FY 2023-2024, but unused funds were not carried over due to MHSA rules.
 - Mirtala Parada Ward negotiated to complete unfinished projects.
 - For FY 2024-2025, \$350,000 was allocated. A significant portion will fund the completion of previously approved projects.

5. Questions Raised:

- **Fund Allocation Clarification:** Attendees questioned where the unused funds for FY 2023-2024 went and whether MHSA funds were used elsewhere.

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- Dr. Alquijay explained that unused funds were forfeited by June 30, 2024, due to MHSA regulations. Dr. Alquijay reminded subcommittee that Ms. Parada Ward negotiated additional funding to avoid losing money for unfinished projects.

6. Project Completion and Future Planning:

- Discussions on how to prevent delays in future projects and ensure timely completion.
- Importance of timely vendor collaboration and awareness of project deadlines.

7. Nominations for Co-Chair:

- Nominations were held for the co-chair positions:
 - **Maria Arauco** (Accepted, completed 2-minute presentation)
 - **Irma Velasquez** (Declined due to employment with LACDMH)
 - **Barbara Rabello** (Not present, but nomination stands)
 - **Sara Mijares** (Not present, but accepted nomination)
- A suggestion was made to allow nominees to submit written statements outlining how they will serve the committee.

8. Next Steps:

- An online voting form will be created and sent to eligible voters to finalize the co-chair elections, after all the nominees have accepted/declined, and nominees that've accepted submit their response to how they will support the UsCC.
- The group emphasized the need for clear communication and transparency, particularly regarding budget allocations.

Microsoft Teams: [Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 267 238 091 635 Passcode: DkHxe4

Dial in by phone [323-776-6996, 617348665#](#) [Find a local number](#) Phone conference ID: 617 348 665#

English call in line: (888) 204-5987, access code 9639884