

**Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
API Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC)
Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2025, 2:00 pm-4:00 pm**

Present: Richer San, Norio Iwahori, Tuan D. Nguyen, , Bea Leung, Sithea San, Sanghak Kan, Grace Leung, Krystal Fermin, , JR Kuo, Mariko Kahn, Kerry Chhay, Mikey Olbes, Soh Yun Park, Payal Sawhney, Sheetal S. Ayyatan, Sheila Wu, Michelle Wong, Jennifer Norman, Kaajal Sheth, Chanty, , Maria N. Tan, Onyou Kim, Rae Fishman, Rocco Cheng, Suman, Emily Wu Truong, Sara Pol-Lim, Commissioner: Pastor Kim, Sun Lim, Maria N Tan, Chiyah Lawrence, Riku Matsuda, Mandy Woo, Rosario Ribleza, Yue Hua Xu, Anshu Agarwal Interpreters: Samantha Yu (Korean line), Sun Lim (Korean Line), Alex (Spanish Line), Bo (Cambodian line) CART Captioner: Dawn DMH Admin: Jennifer Alquijay, Tsuyen Chen, Yailin Noriega,	
Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
Welcome & Introductions	Subcommittee Members, Housekeeping Attendance, Co-Chairs
Land Acknowledgment	Co-Chair, Jennifer Alquijay LA County Land Acknowledgment: https://lacounty.gov/government/about-la-county/land-acknowledgment/
Review of Meeting Minutes	The meeting minutes of November 17, 2024 were approved. Motion by Tuan to approve minutes and seconded by Mariko.
DMH Update	Dr. Jennifer Alquijay: • Update on stakeholder newsletter submission deadline: End of February, probably Feb. 24, 2025, with the submission guideline released on Feb. 3. • Ms. Mirtala Prada Ward (Program Manager III of this administrative division) will be inviting guest speaker from the Office of Immigration Affairs in Feb. or March to different UsCC sub-committees.
Capacity Building Project Update	Dr. Jennifer Alquijay: • Top 4 FY 25-26 proposals voted are Oral History Project for Cambodian American Families, Community Resilience 101, Laughter is the Best Medicine, and Korean Senior Mental Health and Well-being by ranking order.

- Up to \$100,000 funding allocated to each of the two larger projects and equally divide up the rest between the two smaller projects with a total of \$350,000 funding for the API group.
- Statement of Work will be completed by Dr. Jennifer Alquijay and Liaison in next couple of months and submit with the reference quote to ISD for bidding hoping the bidding will be out in July no later than August so awarded vendors will have at minimum nine to eleven months to implement the projects...the SOW is made available for download (on-line)...we're hoping July in response to Michelle's question re: the SOW's posting schedule.
- In FY 24-25, four projects include the Southeast Asian Youth awarded to the Cambodian Town, Stress Management to the Human Beauty Movement, Outreach project pending for the selection of the awarded vendor, and Cambodian Youth Project with no bidder per ISD.
- Richer confirmed that one bidder from YMCA submitted the application for the Cambodian Youth Project and received the acknowledgement.
- Dr. Jennifer Alquijay inquired the bidder's contact information and will follow up on this matter with ISD thru the Program Analyst,
- All these FY 24-25 projects are to be completed by end of June 2025 (Dr. Jennifer Alquijay and Dr. Rocco Cheng acknowledged that not much time left before the due date)
- Will make sure next year will not have the same problem and will have sufficient time to complete the projects.

Mariko:

- Our healing through dance project is going so well...36 people who registered and only needed a minimum of 20... We've already had several lectures including a wonderful one by Richer and Sithea about the history of Cambodia and why they came to the United States...want to thank Dr. Sheila Wu for helping me obtain some of the presenters...it's going to be a very successful program.

Richer:

- Parents that brought the children made positive compliments they said they wished at school that they had similar programs like this.

Jennifer Norman:

- My company, the human beauty movement, is working on the API stress management program we have to finish it up by June we are feverishly working on it. We are starting to recruit

	for people who are interested in being trainers... two within the Chinese community, two within the Japanese community and two in the Korean community to provide in language curriculum to a number of individuals within the community... we can disseminate (the recruitment flyers) to those API USCC and everybody can have them and consider within your communities anybody that would be interested in number one being an active trainer or number 2 participating as a participant in the program.
Community Announcements & Open Discussion on Non-Agenda Items	Emotional Support Line: Sok Yun: • We (YouStar Foundation) just started emotional support line for the Korean Americans. • In December 2024, survey finding shows: ○ First generation and second generation are different in attributes of failures. This awareness may heighten their stress and burden when facing failure as they lack of same external justification. ○ First generation respondents rated degree of communication conflict 2.7 out of 5. While second generation respondents rated communication conflict with their parents 4.4 out of 5. ○ Korean Americans demonstrate culturally influenced tendency in their positive attitude regarding suicide with similar trends observed across the generational lines. ○ More severe perceived parent-child conflict, more likely respondents were to hold positive attitude towards suicide. ○ Panel was scheduled for February 1st, but due to LA fires, has been postponed to several months later. Community Healing Circle in Pacific Asian Counseling Services: Sithea: • Next month we offer a community healing circle, we are looking for participants who are English proficient and also Khmer Language, Cambodian American 18 plus to take part in the 72 hour virtual group discussion about racism • The conversation will focus on healing from experiences with race, including but not limited to feeling of distress, fear from current events, discrimination and hate. No prior knowledge or experience required to participate in this • If you know anyone or have any friends and family, please have them register. I tried to put the flier in the chat but it's not working. I'm going to send it to Dr. Alquijay, so that you can send it to everyone.

Stakeholder Newsletter:

- Michelle: I'd like to submit an article about staying calm in times like this. She pointed out breathing technique.
- Emily shared her artwork inspired by Ms. Y. Kusama and her story.

Translation into Vietnamese:

- Tuan: Vietnamese is not one of the languages translated for the folder that is done. Richer: will ask Dr. Alquijay what is the proper way to send our request to.

API UsCC Brochure:

- Dr. Jennifer Alquijay and Richer in agreement to send out the survey re: the API UsCC brochures (one in white and the other in lavender) following comments made by Mariko and Michelle regarding the colors and flowers in the brochures.
- Richer: Can always improve but for now I would like to get this done because we, our community, do have huge celebration coming up in April and I would like to be able to print some of these there...we estimate we can have about maybe probably 10,000 people coming in person for two day celebration in Long Beach.

Early Psychosis Program:

- Dr. Anshu Agarwal: we have 5 providers throughout the LA county, and hoping to add 3 more so one in each of the 8 service areas...you can refer your clients or if you know anybody that is struggling with early psychosis or someone showing early signs of psychosis they can benefit from this. My email is AAGARWAL@dmh.lacounty.gov... program has an email box Earlypsychosis@dmh.lacounty.gov (I or one of the providers) will come out to do a presentation in response to Mariko's request for presentation.

Actions and Resources in response to the Immigration Issues:

- Emily: We (Asian Minds Better and National coalition for Mental Health Recovery) are going to Washington, D.C. this coming June to advocate for and against different bills that harm psychiatric survivors from having their civil rights taken away from them.
- Michelle: Emanuel Presbyterian church housed (immigrant) families (in the past), we're prepared to do that once again...we are working with the Echo Park Immigration Coalition and K Town for All, not only for mental health but for solidarity.

	• Mariko: Dr. Alquijay and others have been sending us notifications with a lot of links to language access of the red cards ...you cannot access them directly anymore from the source so you need to download them in the different languages, and they have the artwork so when you get these, it's really a good idea to print them and share them with friends from different ethnicities...you need to have some paperwork showing you've been in in this country more than two years and of course if you are a citizen...the Family Plan is in English and Spanish. • Chanty: if we could make a copy of the Fifth Amendment, that in our U.S. Constitution that we don't want to speak, we don't want to answer we have the right, maybe we could with the ICE or police that stop us or stop immigrants could help alleviate the issue a little bit. • Sheetal: I think red cards have Amendment V and Amendment IV. • Mariko added that red cards have several Asian languages. Impact of the Immigration Policies: • Dr. Jennifer Alquijay.: Our new administration is making it difficult for immigrants in all communities... he's also targeting immigrants in the Chinese community. • Richer: Even in our communities, Cambodian, Vietnamese, Laos, we have been talking about this issue with great concern after the election...it is impacting friends and relatives... We are used to this kind of situation back home, the stress, and separation of family. But we never thought that this eventually happens here and we are witnessing it right now. • Mariko: I have been hearing reports... ICE closing in on the agricultural groups, many Asian people work in the fields...ICE are gathering at schools and clinics...parents are not sending kids to schools or to medical clinics for treatment. • Sheetal: Are children being targeted? • Mariko: More adults because they figure if they get the parents, then the family will be forced to be deported anyway...we already saw that there was a mistake that the ICE folks picked up the indigenous groups from the Arizona, 15 of them. • Chanty: You read in social media that ICE started to raid over 1,000 people in New York yesterday. And concerned that it will come down to our Southern California, too.
Labor Acknowledgement	Co-Chair, Dr. Jennifer Alquijay Note: Following this group discussion, Dr. Alquijay consulted via e-mail with both co-chairs re: inclusion of this acknowledgement in meeting(s).

Upcoming Meeting: Monday, Feb. 24, 2025 (2:00 pm-4:00 pm)

For more information about the API UsCC, please see its website:
<https://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mhsa/uscc/asian-pacific-islander-api-uscc/>