

**Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
AI-AN Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC)
Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
February 5th, 2025, from 2:00pm - 4:00pm**

Present: Tsu Yen Chen, Evelyn Espinoza, riKu Matsuda, Sylvia Gonzales, Jessica Mosher, Anshu Agarwal, Jill Sherman-Warne, Mikey Olbes, Kathleen Dvorak Ashelford, Jenn Yates, Rosario Ribleza, Eva Powless, Rae Lopes, Lesley Hunt, Stephanie Mushrush, Carol DeLilly, Nicole Estrella, Antonia Rios, Wildflower Ontiveros, Gabriela Vasquez, Carrie Johnson, Yue Hua Xu, Elena Nourrie, Mirtala Parada Ward, Andrea Garcia, Shannon Rivers CART Captioner: Joseph Lang DMH Admin: Anna Yaralyan / Yailin Noriega	
<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; color: red; font-weight: bold;"> PowerPoint by Jessica throughout meeting to highlight the efforts of Tribal Organization firefighters during the Eaton Fire. </div>	
Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
Welcome, Introductions, & Opening Prayer	Welcome by Co-Chair Lesley Hunt / PowerPoint by Jessica Mosher – Ice breaker: Who was your childhood idol? Opening Prayer – Jessica opened the floor for any elders – no volunteers. Jill Sherman-Warne did the opening prayer.
Land Acknowledgment	Co-Chair Jessica Mosher opened the floor for any elders. Sylvia Gonzales Youngblood did the Land Acknowledgement.
Review of Meeting Minutes	The meeting minutes of January 2025 were approved. Motion by Sylvia Gonzales to approve minutes and seconded by Eva Powless .
Indigenous Mindfulness Exercise	Jill Sherman-Warne What is mindfulness? Being aware of yourself and what YOU can control. Be in the moment. Life is a gift.
Report-Outs Lesley / Jessica	Lesley – Concerned about meetings being recorded. Proposed to stop recording meetings. Sylvia – History of having raised the same concern. Mirtala – From administrative perspective: Stakeholders made the request to record meetings. Needs to be addressed with Dr. Horn (lead on Stakeholder meetings).
Community Updates	Antonia Rios – February is National Parents' Leadership Month. Recognizing anyone in a parenting role. Sylvia Gonzales – Something to know/read into: Potential dismantling of the US Department of Education and the threat upon special education. Native American Youth: highest percentage of youth identified with specific learning disabilities. Jessica Mosher – Shared photos from event she attended. Uplifted Rage Embroidery and Wombat MHS. Bringing funding to Indian Country: PATH CITED deadline was extended to May 2, 2025. No CAP Funding.

Project Updates	<p>Carrie Johnson – Sacred Path Indigenous Wellness Center / Suicide In Native Communities Toolkit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have completed 5 round table discussions with 46 community members. - Finalizing video that goes along with Suicide Prevention Toolkit - Will be having 2 in-person listening sessions to watch the video <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Saturday, February 23rd, 2025, from 12pm – 2pm. o Sunday, March 1st, 2025, from 5pm – 7pm. - Will be having a virtual listening session to watch the video <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Tuesday, February 25th, 2025, from 12pm – 1pm. - Flyers will be distributed 02/06/2025. <p>Project will be finalized in March 2025.</p>
Stakeholder Newsletter Brainstorming	<p>Stephanie Mushrush has submitted her Article to Dr. Alquijay / Jessica Mosher.</p> <p>Want to make sure every Newsletter has an article/publication from a community member.</p>
LA Fire Recovery	<p>Jill Sherman-Warne – Air Quality Awareness</p> <p>Incentive Program to purchase a vehicle from the State of California.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Driving Clean Assistance Program: Driving Clean Assistance Program Empowering Communities - Income based. - You can get up to \$12,000 towards a new or used vehicle. Fully electrical or hybrid vehicle. - Clean air with filters. Do not use Air condition unit in car or home without having a clean/new air filter. - Air quality resource: AQMD - Home - Take car to car wash when attempting to clean ash off. Wear a mask when cleaning car. Do not use a leaf blower. <p>Silvia Gonzales-Youngblood – What does rebuilding look like?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Subject that should be brought up. - Remind our communities to build in a more responsible way. - We need to take care of the land. - Rebuild in a more resistant way.
Capacity Building Projects	<p>Encouraged community members to bid for any projects that are currently out for bid.</p> <p>Shared CBP Timeline Graphic with group.</p> <p>SSSP Project was awarded Decreasing Negativity Project.</p> <p>Shannon Rivers – Concerns regarding “New Traditions” term.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What does that mean? How does that fit into our scope of work? - Waving sage around does not make you a healer. Only medicine men/women are healers. - Wants community to be mindful of these conversations (of traditions) so that they don’t get lost. <p>Elena Nourrie – Wants to raise awareness of what occurred at SSSP events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Non-native member sharing opinions. - Raise awareness that community members have complained regarding non-native member. - Elders do not want to participate/attend events. No longer a safe space for them. <p>Shannon Rivers – Voice that events should be for AI/AN community members.</p>

	<p>Lesley Hunt – Fine line in what defines an Elder. Indigenous is a dangerous word for AI/AN group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be mindful when planning events. Communities need to heal as a community without outside opinions. <p>Sylvia Gonzalez-Youngblood – Every tribe has different traditions. Sacred spaces should be respected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus/intent of events gets swayed when outside members are present at AI-AN events. <p>Jill Sherman-Warne – Not to be exclusionary, but AI-AN events should be for community members.</p> <p>Shannon Rivers – Has to be a discussion open for all. Don't skew tradition. Need to be mindful of historical context when having conversations.</p> <p>Language implemented in CBP Policy/Proposals for AI-AN preference. AI-AN Preference - Public Law</p>
Closing Prayer	Jill Sherman-Warne did the closing prayer.
<p>Upcoming Meeting: Wednesday, March 5th, 2025 (2:00 pm-4:00 pm)</p> <p>For more information about the AI-AN UsCC, please see its website: https://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mhsa/uscc/american-indian-alaska-native-ai-an-uscc/</p>	