

**Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
LGBTQIA2-S UsCC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 3rd, 2025, 2-4 pm**

Welcome/Introductions

Present: Susie Galvan (CART Captioner), Roz Light, Ismael Maldonado, Jessica Valadez, Rex Wilde, Bill Sive, Eden Luna, Crystal Whiteaker, Geoff Albert, Sydney Rogers, Rafael Lopes, Alex Salazar, Jennifer Jiries, Frank Medina, Jennifer Yates, Irene Ratliff, Jed Baris, Elio Vargas, Bryam Herrera, Gardena Cinema (Judy Kim), Mari Arutyunyan, Addison Rose Vincent, Vanessa Pineda, Reg Clarkinia
UsCC Admin: Jennifer Alquijay, Yailin Noriega, Tsu Yen Chen, riKu Matsuda, Evelyn Espinoza, Keianna Crenshaw

Land Acknowledgement – Dr. Alquijay read the LA County Land Acknowledgement

Getting to Know You – Roz Light

March 2025 Meeting Minutes – Meeting minutes approved (first-Alex Salazar, second-Roz Light/Bill Sive).

Co-Chair Updates

- No co-chair updates as the co-chair was not able to attend the meeting.

Current Project Updates

- Safe Tea – awarded – Eden Luna
 - Harm Reduction – Safety Distribution Project
 - Shared the Safe Tea flyer, general infographic, and resource guides created for the community
- Youth Rites of Passage – awarded – Crystal Adams
- Aging in Place – awarded – The Wall Las Memorias
- Digital Hygiene – awarded – Wombat

DMH Reminders – Related to Projects

- All projects have been awarded and are active
- Ad hoc mtg yesterday – 6 project proposal presentations
- Survey to vote on which projects will move forward
- *Just because you submitted a proposal does not mean you will be implementing the project.*
- Project bids are open to ALL County vendors.
Projects become property of LACDMH – because we are providing funds.

Project Proposals FY25-26

- Relatos Sin Fronteras – NYFA – Bryam Herrera – Technical Issues – Moved on to the next presentation
- From Surviving to Thriving Mental Health & Leadership for Trans Women of Color – Sydney Rogers
- Neurographic Art for Beginners – Light Sanctuary – Roz Light

- Free to Be Me, Free to Be We, and LGBT – Gardena Cinema – Judy Kim
- Two Rainbows for LGBTQIA2-S Youth Suicide Prevention Campaign - The BOLD LLC – Rafael Lopes
- Relatos Sin Fronteras – NYFA – Bryam Herrera

DMH Updates/Follow-Ups

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) programs and services are transitioning to Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA).

Encouraged community members to join Community Planning Team (CPT) Meetings.

Hate Crimes Report – Hate Based Incidents (compared 2022 and 2023) – Shared statistics/results.

Board motion that started a few years ago – focuses/attempts to deal with hate-based incidents.

- Will start having an annual report
- Proposals moving forward- probably weave in psychoeducation/coping mechanisms for hate/race-based incidents.

Highlight and turn up the volume on both the Land and Labor acknowledgements.

Next Steps:

Rex: How will we proceed with voting as we did not receive proposals for the unhoused population focus area?

Eden: Voting members voted for the unhoused population as a focus area, we should give a week for individuals to submit a proposal focusing on serving that population.

Rex: Two different possibilities:

- Table the unhoused population focus area for next FY – knowing/keeping in mind that it's a focus area already set in stone
 - o Move on with the three focus areas and have a wild card – some of the project proposals presented this year do not fit under the scope of the focus areas that were voted on.
- Adjust submitted project proposals to focus/serve the unhoused populations.

Eden: Disservice to unhoused folks. Project dedicated to them – not adapted to serve them. (Rex agrees)

Rex: Concerned, the timeline has already been pushed, and any more delays will cause a delay in projects being awarded again.

Eden: Move forward with voting on 3 focus areas.

Roz: Only a few days to come up with proposal. Can start thinking of writing/creating proposal for unhoused population.

- Eden: Agrees, a month is not needed to create a proposal.
 - o Vote on the 3 focus groups- give some time to write proposals and vote at another time.
- Pushing for online project.

Dr. Jen: Voting must be done within the month. We need to start writing the Statements of Work.

- Will create survey to vote on either tabling unhoused population focus area

Rex: How many folks will be able to submit a proposal that serves the unhoused population?

- 4 hands were raised.

Bill: Unhoused population- sense of urgency. The White House Administration is making lots of changes.

- Members agree it is a sensitive topic.

Rex: DMH to send out a survey to vote on the following options to be sent out to the voting members.

Vote:

- Option 1: Keeping focus area for this FY25-26 and giving folks time to submit a proposal.
- Option 2: Moving unhoused populations to next FY and voting for the 3 focus areas.

Labor Acknowledgement- riKu Matsuda read the Labor Acknowledgement written by TJ Stewart.

Upcoming Meetings (first Thursday of the month, 2-4pm): 5/1/25, 6/5/25, 7/3/25

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#); 323-776-6996, Conference ID: 542 042 921#

Meeting minutes can be found at <https://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mhsa/uscc/lgbtqia2-s-uscc/lgbtqia2-s-uscc-meeting-minutes/>