

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

<b>Present:</b> Carla Jaramillo (DMH), Olina Rose Bishop, Sylvia Gonzales (DMH), Angelina Mendoza, Jessica Mosher, Kathleen Dvorak Ashelford, Irene Ratliff, Laura Tejada, Lesley Hunt, Yue Hua Xu/Vicky (DMH), Dewayne Hervey (DMH), Rosario Ribleza (DMH), Soledad Vergara (DMH), Harrelson Notah (DMH), Erik Escareño, Rae Lopes, Mirtala Parada Ward (DMH), Roberta Javier, Farrah Ferris (#2609), Ebony Lewis (DMH)	
<b>DMH Admin:</b> Jennifer Alquijay / Yailin Noriega	
Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
<b>Welcome, Introductions, &amp; Opening Prayer</b>	Welcome by Co-chairs – Ice breaker: Something you would bring to the cookout starting with the first letter of your name. Opening Prayer – Dr. Jessica Mosher opened the floor for any elders – no volunteers – Dr. Jessica Mosher provided opening prayer
<b>Land Acknowledgment</b>	Sylvia Gonzales provided a Land Acknowledgement.
<b>Review of Meeting Minutes</b>	The meeting minutes of June 2025 were approved with the correction of Lesley’s name. Motion by Lesley Hunt to approve minutes and seconded by Erik Escareño.
<b>Indigenous Mindfulness Exercise</b>	Dr. Jessica Mosher: Does anyone have any ideas or examples of interdependence? How were you able to rely on somebody or someone from the community to be able to fill a need that they had?  Laura Tejada: Shared how she uses her social media platforms to uplift community members and their local businesses.  Lesley Hunt: Wants to push into the indigenous part of the mindfulness exercise. AI/AN members have a strong family unit – wants members to really connect and reach out to their relatives – especially elders.  Dr. Erik Escareño: 100% agrees with Lesley. Talking to community and others has kept them grounded. Wombat has letters that

	they provide for individuals to write to elders.
<b>Report Outs &amp; Community Updates</b>	<p>Rosario Ribleza:  The next Community Planning Team (CPT) Meeting - July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, is virtual.  A representative of the AI/AN community is still needed.  The person attending will be receiving a CAF stipend which is \$50.  Urged the subcommittee co-chairs to assign two (2) representatives for the CPT meetings.</p> <p>Irene Ratliff:  Think Tank – SA 8 – Inglewood Library is being expanded. The event has been postponed until further notice.</p> <p>Laura Tejada:  SSSP is opening a new wellness cohort.  The first session is July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025.  Focused on transgenerational health and healing.  Information and invitation are in the chat.</p> <p>Dr. Erik Escareño:  Wombat provides gaming therapy.  Providing a group session/service. Anyone who wants to play videogames.  Sign-ups are available on the website.  Sessions are on Thursdays at 6:00pm.  Eight (8) week cohort – going through multiple games – to address different ideas (gender, exploration, etc.) to find better resolutions to feelings.  Trying to stream via switch for others to connect with mental health providers.</p>
<b>Presentation – BHCIP Round 2: Unmet Needs – Dr. Jessica Mosher</b>	<p>What is BHCIP Round 2 Unmet Needs?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Funded through Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program</li> <li>- Up to \$3.3 billion dollars available statewide</li> <li>- Designed for “launch-ready” projects that expand behavioral health capacity</li> <li>- Open to Tribal governments, Tribal health programs, and consortia</li> </ul> <p>Eligible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Federally recognized Tribes</li> <li>- Tribal Health Programs (Including IHS and Urban Indian Health)</li> <li>- Tribal Consortia or Organizations</li> <li>- County-Tribal Partnerships</li> <li>- Projects must serve Medi-cal beneficiaries, including American Indian/Alaska Native populations</li> </ul>



	traditions.
<b>DMH Updates/Follow-Ups</b>	<p>Dr. Alquijay:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continuing to prepare for the transition from MHSA (Mental Health Services Act) to BHSA (Behavioral Health Services Act).</li> <li>- The Community Planning Team (CPT) meeting on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, is VIRTUAL.</li> <li>- The Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) meeting on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, is in person.</li> <li>- Client Activity Fund (CAF) training on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, is VIRTUAL – anybody who is a member of the community &amp; co-chairs – training is annually – stipends for attending meetings</li> <li>- Thursday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, there will be a Hate Crimes Report presentation during the Black and African Heritage (BAH) UsCC Subcommittee meeting with Dr. Lomeli. Everyone is welcome to attend. The meeting will be recorded as well.</li> <li>- All statements of work have been (almost) completed. We are in the process of collecting reference quotes. <b>Thank you to those who have submitted reference quotes</b>. Hoping to have everything submitted to ISD within the next few weeks.</li> </ul> <p>Farrah Ferris:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attendance issue – POWER employee – Nicole Ferris was not included in the minutes.</li> <li>- Projects approved for the next fiscal year – asked for the titles to be repeated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Urban Native 411 – similar to red pages – not the same</li> <li>o Navigating Adulthood for transitional aged youth</li> <li>o 0-5 Playgroup – incorporating indigenous and nature-based activities</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Questions about the Urban Native 411 – different groups within LA County creating the same resource</li> <li>- Does not want repetitiveness in the projects.</li> <li>- Does not feel safe being recorded in the meeting – would want to have an answer.</li> <li>- The group has asked not to be recorded.</li> </ul> <p>Dr. Alquijay:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thank you. Will talk to Mirtala and get back to you. Apologized for the delay in a response around the recordings.</li> <li>- Urban 411 will not be a duplicate.</li> </ul> <p>Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Farrah mentioned the red pages. Going back to previous years (nearly 10 years) it was a Capacity Building Project (CBP). It is on the UAll website, the goal is to reclaim them back and get them on the AI/AN UsCC Website and update the resource.</li> </ul> <p>Mirtala:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will look into our records as to whether the red pages were a CBP or not from the UsCC.</li> </ul>

	<p>Roberta:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AICC in planning the Urban Native 411 (holder title) – the plan and vision in it is to include the name and contact information of organizations and individuals that were not included in the red pages.</li> <li>- Will also include cultural skilled individuals by name and preferred skills.</li> <li>- Anyone would be able to request a copy and contact anyone listed.</li> <li>- Has not heard that UAll is planning to reproduce the red pages. The last issue was published in 2023 which is outdated.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Community Announcements/ Resources</b></p>	<p>Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If anyone would want to collaborate with her and Harrelson on workshops for general and older adults, please reach out to them.</li> <li>- Sylvia is in SA3. Harrelson is in SA8.</li> <li>- They are available for resource tabling. Anything to help community.</li> <li>- Also provide linkages, support, and resources.</li> </ul> <p>Harrelson Notah:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is available for consulting presentations. Virtually or in-person.</li> </ul> <p>Erik Escareño:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wombat believes in living/breathing resource guides.</li> <li>- Their resources are on their website.</li> <li>- Happy to share their culturally focused resources.</li> <li>- Next event will be in January: Actual Bi-POC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Weaving of black and indigenous communities together.</li> <li>o Happy to collaborate, please reach out.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Mirtala Parada Ward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Going back to Farrah’s comment about the recording.</li> <li>- Under the impression that the group requested for the recordings not to be posted on the DMH website, which they have not been posted.</li> <li>- The recordings do not need to be recorded – they are recorded for minutes purposes</li> <li>- The group needs to go into consensus – just know the notes will be taken manually for the minutes</li> <li>- Whatever is decided as a committee will be honored by DMH.</li> <li>- Wants the group to be aware that room for mistakes will be needed</li> </ul> <p>Dr. Jessica Mosher:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sylvia, Farrah, Lesley, Olina, etc. approved motion to stop the meeting recordings.</li> <li>- Roberta Javier and Kathleen Ashelford both opposed the motion – Roberta knows how hard it is to try to capture the meeting accurately.</li> <li>- Voting members need to vote – not open to all community members.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Voting will be held during the next meeting so that we are more organized and prepared.</li> </ul> <p>Lesley Hunt:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Corrections and additions can be made during the meeting when we are reviewing the minutes for approval.</li> </ul> <p>Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Had feedback regarding the County retention for recordings – hard to hear.</li> </ul>
<b>Community Comments</b>	No comments.
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Dr. Jessica Mosher opened the floor for elders – no volunteers – Dr. Jessica Mosher ended the meeting with a closing prayer.
<p><b>Upcoming Meeting: Wednesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (2:00 pm-4:00 pm)</b></p> <p>For more information about the AI-AN UsCC, please see its website:  <a href="https://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mhsa/uscc/american-indian-alaska-native-ai-an-uscc/">https://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mhsa/uscc/american-indian-alaska-native-ai-an-uscc/</a></p>	