

**Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health  
Black & African Heritage Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC)  
Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
July 3, 2025 10am-12pm**

---

## **WELCOME**

### **Land Acknowledgement**

### **Introductions/Check-In**

**Co-Chair:** Sade Richardson

**Attendees:** Alex - Spanish Interpreter, Andres Estrada, Liz - ASL Interpreter, Blanca E. Watson, Dr. Brenda Ingram, Brian, Charity Wang, Christine Nguyen, Coach Afi G, Diane Tucker, Gregory Parker, Gina To'omalatai, Heredia Sebastian, Irene Ratliff, Jennyfer Ibarra-McMahon, Joy Ellington, Juanita Randle, Dr. Karen Gunn, Kathy Sim - Korean Interpreter, Kerry Chhay, Kirsten Pannell, Kyoni Cummings, Monica Lomeli, Losha - Spanish Interpreter, María Elena, Molly Foster, Mrs. Jonnie Muckelroy, Nakeya Fields, Olina Rose Bishop, Pharaoh Mitchell, Pauline Giscombe, Queen Nina Womack, Rachel Groner, Raquel Derfler, Romalis Taylor, Sade Richardson, Sam Tith, Samantha Yu, Senait Admassu, Shanon R., Sonia Rosas, Terri Jay, Violeta Leones, Wendy Cabil, Yadira Pineda, Yolanda Becerra-Jones

**DMH Admin and Staff:** Adriana Carrillo, Alex Elliott, Alexandra Adame, Dr. Carla Jaramillo, Dr. Chiyah Lawrence, Dr. Christina Barnes-Matthews, Daiya Cunnane, Dewayne Hervey, Donnise Vonner, Dr. Erica Melbourne, Dr. Evelyn Espinoza, Felipe Ocampo Jr., Frances Kim, Haydeh Fakhrabadi, Jamie Walker, Dr. Jennifer Alquijay, Mandy Woo, Martin Almanza, Mirtala Parada Ward, Patrick Z. Del Conte, Richer San, Riku Matsuda, Rosa Franco, Sithea San, Stacey Anne Smith, Treva Blackwell, Venezia Mojarro, Yailin Noriega

### **Land Acknowledgment**

### **Introductions/Check-in**

Subcommittee members introduced themselves to one another while awaiting the co-chair. Sade Richardson joined the group and welcomed everyone. There was no extended time for introductions or check-ins due to the meeting having a late start.

### **Approval of Minutes**

- Wendy Cabil explained the motions needed to approve BAH UsCC meeting minutes and that we can approve the minutes after giving everyone the opportunity to oppose the minutes or abstain.
- Motion by Wendy Cabil to approve June 2025 minutes and seconded by Romalis Taylor
- BAH UsCC Subcommittee approved June 2025 meeting minutes

### **DMH Updates**

Dr. Jennifer Alquijay provided the following DMH Updates:

- We are continuing to prepare for the transition to BHSA.
- Community Planning Team(CPT) happen on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday and last Friday of each month. The next CPT meeting, Tues, 7/8, will be held virtually instead of in-person as usual.
- All BAH UsCC members are encouragd to attend CPT meetings so that along with BAH Co-Chair attendance, BAH is fully represented during the development of the plans related and transition to BHSA.
- All BAH Capacity Building Projects for the 2024-2025 fiscal year have been completed. Statements of Work (SOW) for 2025-2026 projects are being finalized and will be submitted to Internal Services in July. We anticipate that bidding for projects will begin late summer.
  - Romalis Taylor and Dr. Brenda Ingram inquired about the proposals that were previously put forth. Dr. Lawrence confirmed and clarified that the three projects (*along with an outreach and engagement project*) that were proposed are the projects that SOWs were created for: *Building Readiness, Independence, Direction, Guidance & Empowerment (BRIDGE) Workshops for Foster Youth, Black-Led Organizational Leadership Summit, Outreach and Engagement for Black And African Heritage Communities, Teen Empowerment Summit.* We are not involved in the process of preparing projects for bid but will let the BAH UsCC know when they are.

Queen Nina Womack expressed her regret for not being able to attend the June meeting and gave her official goodbye at BAH UsCC Co-Chair sharing that she will still be here and that she enjoyed her tenure as co-chair, that she loves everyone, and gives many thanks.

Jamie Walker provided the following MHSA/BHSA Updates:

- The July Joint O&E meeting for UsCC and SALT Co-Chairs which is usually in-person only, will also be held online following the CPT meeting. We want as many people to attend as possible because we are going to have a presentation about 211LA by Lakeia Taylor. 211LA is an incredible resource and we want to make sure that folks are aware of all the things that 211LA can do in the community.
- Client Activity Fund (CAF) Co-Chair Training
  - The CAF Co-Chair training is going to be on Tuesday, July 15th from 11:00 AM to 12:30. This training is where we're going to get folks trained and introduced to the co-chair process.
  - If you have not taken the CAF Co-Chair training already and you wish to claim CAF funds, please save that date and join us and we'll get you trained.
- Dr. Brenda Ingram inquired about BAH UsCC Co-Chairs and whether there will be two co-chairs this year.
  - Dr. Chiyah Lawrence stated that we did not have anyone able and willing to accept a nomination for the second co-chair position and per MHSA/BHSA we are proceeding with one co-chair position field. She asked Jamie Walker to correct or add to this information, if necessary.
  - Jamie Walker confirmed that the BAH UsCC can proceed with one co-chair and if someone else becomes eligible for co-chair, we can consider them bringing them on board. She encouraged people to think about it and apply for co-chair if they are interested.

Sade Richardson shared that she'd hope to say how amazed she was by the number of Black/African American doctors represented in the BAH UsCC during the introduction section of the meeting.

- She shared that it is an honor for this group to come together with so many different experiences, walks of life, and educational backgrounds; from PhD all the way down to a community college degree.
- It is empowering to our community that we are all able to come together and collaborate as there are not many spaces available for us to do this in.

---

### **Presentation: Life Links Resource Guide/Directory**

Dr. Brenda Ingram shared a presentation about and status of the Life Links project

- Dr. Ingram shared potential graphics for the resource directory.
- Dr. Ingram shared where the UMOJAA Project is in terms of the process of delivering the directory:
  - While originally told they had until the end of June to complete the project, they now have a few more months. With that, they want to go through the summer and take the opportunity to get as many businesses and service providers, including mental health providers) e.g., yoga instructors, life coaches), that are culturally affirming to the Black and African Heritage community as possible.
    - Anybody and anything that is providing that support that improves the well-being of the Community, we want to be a part of this process.
    - We want to be very holistic and inclusive of anything that is in the community that serves the Community from a culturally relevant perspective.
  - The location for this directory has been expanded to be countywide.
- Dr. Ingram is asking for support in letting people know about the project. The UMOJAA Project has an event in conjunction with NAMI - National Alliance for the Mentally Ill for Minority Mental Health Awareness Month.
  - Wendy Cabil shared Minority Mental Health Awareness Month originally being Bebe Moore Campbell Minority Mental Health Month, named after a successful Black/African American author.
- The target date for completion is September. They would like to be able to launch the directory to the community at Taste of Soul.
- The ask is for service providers or anyone who wants to be in the directory to fill out a survey form that talks about what their cultural practices are along with the standard contact information, size of the organization, types of services that they do, etc.
- Close to 800 entities, businesses, and service providers have been reached out to with 140 responding. The goal is 500 entities.
- Dr. Ingram allowed time for questions and answers.
- Dr. Lawrence will share Dr. Ingram's email address along with the link to the survey via email.

---

### **2023 LA County Hate Crime Report Presentation**

Dr. Monica Lomeli and Yadira Pineda from the the Commission on Human Relations presented on the 2023 Hate Crime Report.

- The mission of the LA County Human Relations Commission is to promote better human relations in LA County and help build vibrant, thriving communities by working to transform prejudice into acceptance inequity into justice and hostility into peace. They do this by working to protect and uphold human rights through diversity and equity training by working to

~~transform the justice system through our LA versus hate program that works in conjunction with A211 reporting system, and by documenting hate.~~

- The data in the Hate Crime Report is shared with policy makers, government officials, researchers, educators and community groups. Additionally, the data provided by the Hate Crime Report plays a critical role in guiding data, data-driven decision making, helping the Board of Supervisors allocate resources and funding to programs that combat hate in the most impacted communities. Beyond resource allocation, the hate Crime Report informs board motions, official reports, academic research and public policy.
- Romalis Taylor acknowledged that members of other UsCC Subcommittees joined this BAH meeting to see this presentation and that is a reflection of how important understanding who is experiencing hate is.
- Dr. Lawrence will share the Hate Crime Report presentation via email.

---

### **Community Engagement/Community Events and Announcements**

- The Community Engagement and Community Events and Announcement portions of the BAH UsCC Subcommittee meetings are similar:
  - The community engagement portion is when the subcommittee members have the opportunity to share what is on their mind, have things that they want to share/discuss or concerns to address.
  - The community events and announcements portion is where various upcoming events or activities happening throughout the community can be shared.
- As July is Minority Mental Health Month, the African Coalition and its partners will present a virtual event and focus on the current anxiety for youth within the immigrant community. Please join them. Senait Admassu will send a flyer.
- Senait Admassu took the opportunity to thank and recognize the hard work of Dr. Brenda Ingram and Dr. Karen Gunn; They participated in the African Coalition's celebration of World Refugee Day last week. She also thanked all who may have attended.
- Wendy Cabil reiterated the importance of BeBe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month and shared that it was officially designated as such. She will find the article discussing this and Dr. Lawrence will share with the group via email. Dr. Lawrence will share the Hate Crime Report presentation via email.

---

### **Labor Acknowledgment**

**Upcoming Meeting: August 7, 2025 (10:00am – 12:00pm)**

For more information about the BAH UsCC, please see its website:  
<https://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mhsa/uscc/black-african-heritage-uscc/>