

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health

LGBTQIA2-S UsCC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 3rd, 2025, 2-4 pm

Welcome/Introductions

Present: Bill Sive, Cynthia Ruffin, Sydney Rogers, Merry Meyers, Rafael Lopes, Frank Medina, Rex Wilde, Eden Luna, Sophia S., Gayle Alvarez, Jessica Valadez, Irene Ratliff, Geoff Albert, Brianna Hobson, Darien Dyer (DMH), Kianna Crenshaw (DMH), Ebony Lewis (DMH)

UsCC Admin: Jennifer Alquijay, Christina Barnes-Matthews, Yailin Noriega, riKu Matsuda, Carla Jaramillo, Evelyn Espinosa, Chiyah Lawrence

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

Introductions – Everyone introduced themselves and what organization they are with

Getting to Know You – Ebony Lewis introduced herself to the group

June 2025 Meeting Minutes – Meeting minutes were approved by Bill Sive (1st) and Sydney Rodgers (2nd)

Current Project Updates

Safe Tea Harm Reduction – Eden Luna

- Project has been completed!
- 18 participants
- 13 after hours events attended

DMH Updates / Follow-Ups

1. Current projects wrap up date is June 30th

2. Transition from MHSA to BHSA is coming. Encouraged members to join monthly Community Planning Team (CPT) meetings.
3. CPT meeting is virtual on Tuesday July 8, 2025, at 9:30 AM
 - a. **Link:** <https://dmh.lacounty.gov/event/mhsa-community-planning-team-stakeholder-in-person-meeting-7-8-2025/>
 - b. **MHSA Announcements:** <https://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mhsa/announcements/>
4. 211LA Stop the Hate Program Presentation, after the CPT meeting from 1-2:30PM
 - a. **Link:** https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MzlWmWM3ODgtOTc4MC00MzJkLWJjZWQtOWM1ODdhMDM0N2Vj%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2207597248-ea38-451b-8abe-a638eddbac81%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22772493bb-8768-43dd-9dc2-21672230acb1%22%7d
5. Hate Crime Presentation by Dr. Lomeli in the Black and African Heritage (BAH) UsCC on Thursday July 3, 2025 at 10 am
6. Refence Quotes (no longer needed as of 7/9/25)
7. Behavioral Health Commission Meeting Thursday July 10, 2025 at 11 am
 - a. **Link:** <https://dmh.lacounty.gov/event/behavioral-health-commission-regular-meeting-july-10-2025/>
8. CAF Meeting Tuesday, July 15, 2025 (do not need to attend if you went to the April 2025 CAF meeting)
9. Pride Champions working on display names and pronouns; looking for contracted trainers to provide SB-923 training

Co-Chair Updates

- City of Long Beach is launching LGBTQIA2-S+ needs assessment; closes on Friday July 11
 - **Link:** <https://forms.office.com/g/7ahHAW5B9N>
- Add Earth Lodge Transformation in the survey when asked about referral source/who sent you
- Queer Histories Festival-TBA

General Announcements / Resources / Updates

Bill Sive

- Movie night at Unitarian Church, 5450 E Atherton Street, Long Beach, CA 90815, Friday July 11 at 6pm
- Stonewall Pride Service Meditation video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7clG5aVm2Bw>

Irene Ratliff

- Think Tank currently postponed due to Inglewood Library renovations
- Interest in creating a mural through program at LAX initiative deadline is July 30th

- Email Irene if interested in collaboration at: streetmeetcompany@gmail.com

Q: Rafael L: Are the federal funding changes impacting DMH and the UsCC's?

A: Dr. Alquijay: "I'm not aware of any impact, we are good to go through this next year. By next year we could be in a different place, but for the coming year we are in the same place."

Q: Bill Sive: Are there any LGBTQ oriented faith-based services in SA 6? Please email with any resources to:

GayElderCircle@gmail.com

Labor Acknowledgement- Dr. Christina Barnes-Matthews read the Labor Acknowledgement

Upcoming Meetings (first Thursday of the month, 2-4pm): 8/7/25

[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/>

Flag of the Month: July 14th is International Non-Binary People's Day!