

Meeting Minutes

Latino UsCC Subcommittee Meeting

Date: July 15, 2025

Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Location: Virtual Meeting (Microsoft Teams)

Co-Chairs: Dr. Eric Hernandez and Maria Elena Aruaco



Participants: Alicia Morales, Angelina Mendoza, Carlos Velasco, Coach Afi G; Dr. Eric Hernandez; Dr. Luis Guzman; Elsy A. Molina; Gabriela Gonzalez; Gabriela Velasquez; Gustavo Martinez-Pelcastre; Irma Velasquez Flores; Ismael Maldonado; Jennyfer Ibarra-McMahon; Jessica Valadez; JoAnn Reeder; Lilia Morales Perez; Litzy Sanchez; Maria Elena Arauco; Sana Ahmed; Sara Z. Mijares; Susana Ascencion; Yolanda Becerra-Jones

DMH/Interpreters/Captioners: *Alex, Interpreter; Claudia, Interpreter; Claudia Fierro; Dr. Carla Jaramillo; Dr. Chiyah Lawrence; Dr. Evelyn E. Espinoza; Dr. Jennifer Alquijay; Eugenia Cervantes; Maria Guerra; Martha Ortiz; riKu Matsuda; Sara Hill, CART services; Yailin Noriega; Yue Hua Xu*

1. Welcome & Opening

- **Dr. Evy** - Participants were reminded to check their forms and verify attendance eligibility.
- **Land acknowledgment by Dr. Jennifer Alquijay**
- **Introduction of new co-chair, Dr. Eric Hernandez.**

2. Code of Conduct Review and Discussion

- Reviewed guidelines for respectful engagement.
- Dr. Guzman asked questions regarding whether attestation is mandatory for participation and expressed cultural responsiveness of the code.

3. Access to Meeting Recordings & Transcriptions

- Dr. Espinoza explained that recordings are not automatically posted due to privacy/safety concerns and reminded participants that transcripts are sent with monthly reminders.
- Participants propose to make recordings available upon request and Dr. Evy responded this proposal will be presented to Program Manager Mirtala Parada Ward.

4. Minority Mental Health Month Discussion

- Participants shared cultural traditions that promote well-being (e.g., Posadas, Día de los Muertos, Mother's Day celebrations).

5. June Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve by Irma Velasquez.
- Seconded for approval by Dr. Guzman.

6. In-Person vs Hybrid Meetings

- Mixed opinions; most favored postponing due to the current climate.
- Option: Revisit in December or 2026 for a hybrid model.

7. 5 Priorities Workgroup

- Encouragement to complete the survey to identify top 3 priorities.
- Participant requested written descriptions of priority areas for clarity.

8. Presentation - Redefining Masculinity in the Modern World – Coach Afi

- Addressed toxic masculinity, cultural expectations, and emotional expression.
- Emphasized reclaiming ancestral softness, emotional literacy, and culturally affirming support and strategies to support men's mental health better.

9. Community Introductions & Resource Sharing

- Program Updates shared by: Friends of the Children Los Angeles, disability advocacy, Boyle Heights community clinic, and Children's Bureau.

Next Meeting:

Date: August 19, 2025

Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Location: Virtual (Microsoft Teams)