

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
API Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC)
Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 28th, 2025, 2:00 pm-4:00 pm

Present: Richer San, Sanghak Kan, Sam Tith, Grace Tang, Henry Wu, JR Kuo, Jennifer Norman, Julio Alvarado, Mariko Kahn, Michelle Wong, Mikey Olbes, Nina A. Segura, Norio Iwahori, Onyou Kim, Riku Masuda, Geraldine White, Sheila Wu, Sithea San, Tuan D. Nguyen, Violeta Leones, Ashley Lanuza, Gustavo Martinez-Pelcastre, Susana Ascencion, JC Das, Dewayne Hervey, Belinda Rabano, Drishti Joshi, Eric Luan, Kerry Chhay, Maria N Tan, Carla Jaramillo, Anshu Agarwal, Ping-chih Kuo, Charlie, Traci Higa, Chelsea M Adams, Payal Sawhney, Usha Narasimhan, CART Captioner: Rhonda Leier DMH Admin: Jennifer Alquijay, Tsu Yen Chen, Yailin Noriega	
Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
Welcome & Introductions	Co-Chairs and Subcommittee Members
Land Acknowledgment & Community Agreement	Co-Chairs, Jennifer Alquijay LA County Land Acknowledgment: https://lacounty.gov/government/about-la-county/land-acknowledgment/
Review of Meeting Minutes	The meeting minutes of June 23 rd 2025 with revision were approved. Motion by Tuan D. Nguyen to approve minutes and seconded by Mariko Kahn.
DMH Updates	Jennifer Alquijay and Liaison provided some updates. - Community Agreement was introduced and read. - Co-chair nominations are needed. Ms. Sithea San nominated Ms. Violeta Leones, who gracefully accepted the nomination. - No reference quote will be required in the future, Note: Liaison followed up with Ms. Elaine Waldman, Analyst, who confirms that deliverables in SOW and timeline for completion to be determined by the liaison and the awarded vendor. - Community Planning Team (CPT) Meetings are held twice a month with one in-person meeting at St Anne's and the other one conducted virtually. And the next one at St Anne's will be held on August 12th to continue planning of the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA). - Disruption by the hacker was addressed and follow-up plan with DMH IT Department was made.

Capacity Building Project Update & Discussion	Healing Through Dance for Southeast Asian Youth by Ms. Mariko Kahn - This kind of program incorporates the dance with the psychoeducation, and is a very powerful way to improve mental health and youth. - Of the 37 students aged 14 to 24 registered, 29 graduated, and of the 29 graduates, 22 were able to perform. - 10 1-hour psychoeducation sessions followed by dance classes...a total of 2 performances. - The people who saw the performances was at least 1000, if not more each time. - Had the inclusion of the Cambodian, Filipino and Hmong histories - 258 responded to the questionnaires during that 10 week period of the workshops. - After they had the presentations, it jumped up to strongly agree by quite a few percentage points in almost every case. - We also did a pre and post questionnaire at the end of the 10 weeks of the dance classes and each one had maybe a different response, - My recommendation is that we expand these dance projects to many underserved communities, because a lot of ethnic communities, not just Asian communities, really treasure their dance traditions. And if it's a way to bring youth into programs and have them learn about mental health awareness, I think it's something that DMH could really look into
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Community Announcements & Open Discussion on Non- Agenda Items	Dr. Alquijay announced her leaving DMH. Members expressed their sadness and understanding about her decision.
Labor Acknowledgement	Dr. Alquijay read the Labor Acknowledgement
Upcoming Meeting: August 25rd, 2025 (2:00 pm-4:00 pm) more information about the API UsCC, please see its website: ://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mhsa/uscc/asian-pacific-islander-api-	

