

**Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
AI-AN Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC)
Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
August 6th, 2025, from 2:00pm - 4:00pm**

Present: Antonia Rios, Olina Bishop, Farrah Ferris, Jessica Mosher, Laura Tejeda, Lesley Hunt, Mikey Olbes, Roberta Javier (2503), Art Martinez, Avril Cordova, Cynthia Dawson, Dana Gamble, Holly Echo-Hawk, Lila Hodge, Merin McCabe, Nannette Star, Nicole Ferris, Scott Black, Shawnte Grillo, Twila Mallari, Zoe (No last name), Angela Guzman, Carla Jaramillo, Christina Barnes-Matthews, Dewayne Hervey, Francisco Tan, Harrelson Notah, Jamie Walker, Michelle Thomassian, Reuben Wilson, riKu Matsuda, Rosario Ribleza, Soledad Vergara, Stephanie Mushrush, Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood, Yue Hua Xu (Vicky) DMH Admin: Jennifer Alquijay / Yailin Noriega	
Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
Welcome, Introductions, & Opening Prayer	Welcome by Co-chair, Jessica Mosher – Ice breaker: Share what your first summer job was, paid or unpaid. Opening Prayer – Jessica Mosher opened the floor for any elders – no volunteers – Jessica Mosher provided opening prayer.
Land Acknowledgment	Dr. Alquijay read the LA County Land Acknowledgement in the absence of Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood.
Rearranged Agenda	Kauffman & Associates
Indigenous Mindfulness Exercise	N/A
Presentation – Kauffman & Associates Presentation	Traditional Healing & Natural Helpers Presentation The team introduced themselves. Responsible for providing outreach and training/technical assistance to organizations and county agencies. The State of California contracted with Kauffman & Associates and other organizations. The Traditional Health Care Practice (THCP) TA partners serve as thought partners and policy advisors to DHCS to assist in the development of: - Draft traditional practice positions and service descriptions - Recommendations for service frequency - Parity in payment rate setting – advocated for the highest pay possible – see them as specialized care. - Opt-in package requirements - BHIN 25-007 language revisions - Statewide web-based TA request portal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved State-submitted 1115 waivers to expand services to include Traditional Practices for Medicaid beneficiaries in four states:

	- California - Arizona - New Mexico - Oregon – efforts have been going on for over 20 years Kauffman & Associates (KAI) tracks activity in all four states for Native best practice and lessons learned LAI led a four-state panel presentation in July 2025. Local Indian Health Care Practitioners (IHCPs) maintain control over their selection criteria and qualifications for Traditional Healers and Natural Helpers. Member eligibility – Traditional health care practices are covered for Medi-Cal members who: - Are enrolled in Medi-Cal or CHIP in a DMC-ODS County - Are able to receive services delivered by or through an IHCP, as determined by the facility - Meet DMC-ODS access criteria Once DHCS has approved an IHCP's opt-in package, the program will be added to participating providers list on the DHCS Traditional Health Care Practices webpage. For more information or to request support: TraditionalHealth-TA_CA@kauffmaninc.com
Presentation – Alternative Crisis Response (ACR) Unit	They want feedback from the community. The goal is to not involve law enforcement. ACR is meant to help people during a mental health crisis. Services are 24/7 throughout LA County. ACR works with other teams/services to make sure people get the care they need most. ACR uses the DMH Help Line number (Access: 800-854-7771) and manages the 988 number (National phone number – Suicide and Crisis Lifeline) in LA County. They have follow-up teams that focus on reaching out to people after the crisis. (To make sure they are connected to long-term care). Community Health Workers, Clinicians, Diverse Teams, Unarmed Teams, and/or Culturally Competent Teams respond when you call ACR. LA's First Responders for Mental Health Crisis Support. ACR will assist with transportation and entry into Urgent Care Centers (UCCs) - Special clinics where people can go immediately if they're having a mental health crisis - The people at the UCC will help individuals (that require more help than what the UCC offers) get to a hospital safely. - UCC's are a more comfortable setting than a hospital or emergency room ACR is NOT law enforcement. Your medical records and health information will remain private and secure. All DMH staff are considered mandated reporters when working with children/special needs individuals, and older adults. Parents of adults can call the access number and request services for their adult children. If you call the wrong number (example: 911 instead of mental health), they will access what's going on and re-direct the call to the appropriate line. ACR is the overall system that encompasses all the other crisis response programs. (PMRT is within the ACR system) ACR is funded under MHSA and Medi-Cal.

	Response time is one of their biggest priorities to work on. They want to make the wait time shorter/quicker. - Current wait time ranges from 1-2hrs on average. - Working on hiring to help time average be less than an hour - Staff answering the phone are available to assist with the crisis while they wait for the crisis response team to arrive. Who to call for help cards available in English, Spanish, Armenian, Farsi, Korean, and Chinese (more languages coming). Lesley Hunt: Comment Impressive presentation. A good lifeline for people to know that are facing mental health. Allows family to take a breather in that moment – frustration that they feel. Powerful. Question in chat: If a teen calls seeking help – are you able to treat without parental approval? - Yes. If the minor is in crisis – they will respond. They do not need parental consent. There are times when the parents are unavailable and cases where the parents are the perpetrators. Jessica Mosher: Recommended a book on how to talk to Native American population. Will send to Angela. Lesley Hunt: What kind of facility are individuals being taken to when hospitalization is needed? - FT: They look for a hospital that has a bed. It depends on the presentation of the client. They often try to use UCC's. They consider history with hospitals and specific doctors. - LH: Sometimes, government funding facilities aren't the best setting. No restrictions, safety parameters, privacy, etc.
Review of Meeting Minutes	The meeting minutes of July 2025 were approved. Motion by Lesley Hunt to approve minutes and seconded by Avril Cordova.
Report Outs & Community Updates	Community Planning Team (CPT) Meeting – August 12th, 2025 - Getting ready to draft plan for County. Votes are important. Co-chairs can have a community representative to attend meetings. Jessica Mosher: Has expressed only being able to join virtually. Jessica Mosher: Attended a conference and presented. Very few Native presenters. Those that were there spoke for 5 minutes. Researchers did most of the presentations that Native speakers provided information/research on. Wants Natives to be experts, not the allies. Save the Date: October 4th, 2025. Jessica will share the flyer/poster with community members. Tribal IDs will not be checked at the door.
DMH Updates/Follow-Ups	Dr. Alquijay will be leaving her position with DMH/the County. Will be working with the Native community with Sacred Path.

	Voting – Eleven voting members. Anonymous vote. Send out an email and report back once we receive the results. YN: Shared voting eligibility. 51% of eligible voting members (according to bylaws) – at least 4 votes (9 voting members that we are able to contact) Capacity Building Projects – all submitted to ISD (Internal Services) Hoping the projects go out to bid as soon as possible. Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood: If no one is replying via email, it doesn't seem productive to send a vote via email. - Do a poll or pull voting members privately to vote now. - JM: We can't control who replies to the poll. We will have to force a vote in a meeting. - JW: We can also create a Microsoft Form and send to only voting members.
Community Announcements/ Resources	
Community Comments	
Closing Prayer	Avril Cordova provided a closing prayer.
Upcoming Meeting: Wednesday, September 3rd, 2025 (2:00 pm-4:00 pm) For more information about the AI-AN UsCC, please see its website: https://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mhsa/uscc/american-indian-alaska-native-ai-an-uscc/	