

**Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
AI-AN Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC)
Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
September 3rd, 2025, from 2:00pm - 4:00pm**

Present: Antonia Rios, Rae Lopes, Avril Cordova (#8564), Nannette Star, Shawnte Grillo, Nancy Steward, Jessica Mosher, Laura Tejeda, Emily Montgomery (#6721), Safa Mohammed, Kathleen Ashelford, Roberta Javier (#2503), Mirtala Parada Ward, Dria Yellowhair, Dewayne Hervey, Sophia Yeung, Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood, Stephanie Mushrush, Valentin Contreras, Yue Hua Xu, Keianna Crenshaw, Lila Hodge, Farrah Ferris, Olina Bishop, Jennifer Alquijay, Soledad Vergara, Lesley Hunt, Krista Armenta-Belen, Yailin Noriega CART Captioner: Cindy Kim DMH Admin: Carla Jaramillo	
Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
Welcome, Introductions, & Opening Prayer	Welcome by Co-chair, Jessica Mosher – Ice breaker: Share what your favorite childhood summer activity was. Opening Prayer – Jessica Mosher opened the floor for any elders – Nancy Steward provided an opening prayer.
Land Acknowledgment	Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood provided the Land Acknowledgement.
DMH Community Agreements	Dr. Jaramillo provided a summary of the Community Agreements – the full document was sent to everyone via email prior to the meeting. Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood: - Concerns with the Community Agreements as some discussions/hard conversations may come off as aggressive but may not be the intention. - Always keep culture at the forefront. - Don't let "western" thoughts override cultural aspects. Stephanie Mushrush: - What if the comments/harm are not caught in the moment? Are members of the community allowed to email the liaison or pause in the moment? - o Mirtala Parada Ward: ▪ Sometimes we are not aware – we allow and accept feedback. ▪ Let DMH staff know and include the co-chairs – we want to get/do better. ▪ Sometimes we have internal biases – we accept open dialogue and communication.
Voting Results	AI/AN UsCC Subcommittee Meetings will no longer be recorded. Transcription will be on in addition to CART Captioners attending the meetings for accurate meeting minutes. Meeting notes will be handwritten by Yailin during the meetings.

Indigenous Mindfulness Exercise	Did not secure a leader. Skipped agenda item.
Review of Meeting Minutes	The meeting minutes of August 2025 were approved. Motion by Kathleen Ashelford to approve minutes and seconded by Laura Tejeda .
Report Outs & Community Updates	Community Planning Team (CPT) Meeting – September 9th, 2025. Mirtala Parada Ward: Echoed the need for co-chairs (or representatives) to attend the meetings. Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood: - AI/AN hasn't had any presence at the CPT Meetings. - Has been connecting with Rosario to find an alternative. - Location is not accessible. - Rosario is working with Darlesh to find a solution for representation at meetings. Mirtala Parada Ward: - Representation is needed through December 2025. - The meeting location will be at Headquarters in Koreatown (510 S. Vermont) starting January 2026. - It is important for members to attend meetings to see possible impact with BHSA. As of now, Mirtala does not know what the budget will look like for FY26-27. - Under BHSA, the State tells the Department what the priorities are vs under MHSA, the Department would tell the State what the priorities are. - The Department will go through lots of changes. - The representatives that are chosen to represent the community must be eligible voting members and not DMH staff.
Rooted in Resilience Presentation So'oh-Shinálí Sister Project – Laura Tejeda	Began by uplifting Wildflower Ontiveros and her efforts to make the sessions possible and successful. There were 3 sessions in total: - Understanding the Past: Multigenerational Trauma and Its Impact - Virtual: Addressing the Present: Mental Health and Psychoeducation - Building the Future: Cultivating Positivity and Resilience Eleven (11) families participated in total. There were 125 participants – of those 125, there were 55 unique participants. 23 Tribal affiliations were represented across the three sessions. The links that were shared via QR Codes: - Rooted in Resilience: Understanding the Past History of Multigenerational Trauma - o https://www.instagram.com/p/DK2yO09yXpr/ - Rooted in Resilience: Building the Future Cultivating Positivity and Resilience - o https://www.instagram.com/p/DK3RrSCBCFh/ Recommendations for DMH:

	- Continue Supporting Culturally Grounded AI/AN Programs - Expand Intergenerational and Family-Based Models - Enhance Data Collection and Impact Sharing - Incorporate Technology Access as Standard Practice Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood: What do you think the reality will be from this workshop? Strengthen the bond within families between elders and youth? Have the respect and cherish elders like in the past? - Laura Tejeda: Yes, she saw it firsthand. The workshops have had a huge impact with the youth being able to learn and heal together. Large number of youths that attend are accompanied by their elders. Programs get filled up with participants quickly.
Native Excellence and Wellness Chosen Resources (Nail Dega) – Olina Bishop	There were 10 sessions in total. 5 sessions were in person – at the library in Huntington Park where the American Indian Resource Center is located. 5 sessions were virtual – held via Zoom. Shared video from YouTube – Intimate interview with two of the presenters: Gina and Nicole Started with low participation rate – averaging between 10-15 participants in the first sessions. Ended the series with an average of 25-30 participants. Believes it's important to continue to do these kinds of workshops that highlight Native successes/practices.
DMH Updates/Follow-Ups	Dr. Jaramillo: - Two of the three projects are out for bid. - Shared screen to show how to search for the projects using the open solicitation website. - The deadlines for the bids are both in September. - Yailin put the solicitation information in the chat.
Community Announcements/Resources	Stephanie Mushrush: - October 9th – October 12th - Elders Event – extended invite - Will share information with UsCC Email to be sent out to distribution list. Farrah Ferris: CPT Meetings feedback/comments - Rotate co-chairs/representatives to attend CPT meetings - Lesley and Jessica to navigate the possible representatives Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood: - Will funding be allocated to other communities if there isn't Native representation at the CPT meetings? - o Mirtala Parada Ward: No, as long as the UsCC's are under her umbrella of managing – the allocated funds will always be equal between the 7 communities. ▪ This is the time to show up as a group. ▪ Encouraged everyone to visit the BHSA website.
Community Comments	Antonia Rios: - The helpline is at risk of being closed/shut down.

	- Asked to share the link to the petition with the group.
Closing Prayer	Nancy Steward provided a closing prayer.
Upcoming Meeting: Wednesday, October 1st, 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/	