

**Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
AI-AN Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC)
Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
October 1st, 2025, from 2:00pm - 4:00pm**

Present: Jessica Mosher, Nancy Steward, Lesley Hunt, Mirtala Parada Ward, Claire Kobren, Eva Powless, Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood, Dewayne Hervey, Christina Barnes-Matthews, Chair Victor Manalo, Roberta Javier, No name (#1229), Olina Bishop, Elena Nourrie, Kathleen Dvorak Ashelford, No name (#8564), Chiyah Lawrence, Yailin Noriega, Soledad Vergara, John R. Reeves, Stacy Dagleish, Avril Cordova CART Captioner: Cindy Kim DMH Admin: Carla Jaramillo	
Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
Welcome, Introductions, & Opening Prayer	Welcome by Co-chair, Lesley Hunt Ice breaker by Co-Chair, Jessica Mosher : Shared screen of emotion wheel. Choose one and speak of emotion. Opening Prayer – Lesley Hunt opened the floor for any elders – Nancy Steward provided an opening prayer.
Land Acknowledgment	Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood provided the Land Acknowledgement.
Introduce Chair Manalo	Chair Victor Manalo introduced himself. Third year working with the commission. Social Worker and professor Wants the subcommittees to know that they are not operating in isolation. Wants to create a working sense of partnership and collaboration. Voiced that he is accessible and available to everyone. Wants to know what support is needed from the commission. Happy to meet individually/separate from our monthly meetings. Lesley – Thanked Chair Manalo. Stated that his excitement passes on to the circle. Sylvia – Asked why the commissions name changed to Behavioral Health.
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: - Echoed Shannon Rivers’ concerns that some discussions/hard conversations may come off as aggressive but may not be the intention. Every culture has different communication methods that should not be perceived as ill intent or harmful. - Asked what are the protections of AI/AN community members in this space? Mirtala addressed Sylvia’s questions/comments/concerns:

	- There is no hierarchy in oppression. Oppression is oppression. - This space is to address the AI/AN community but is open to everyone. Lesley: - There is misunderstanding. Lesley provided some background and personal examples on the concerns that Sylvia was voicing. Elena: - Also provided some insight into the concerns. - It is important to center Native community in the agreements across all UsCC's. Lesley: It is best for participants to take a back seat in AI/AN community discussion. While their partnership is appreciated and welcome – AI/AN discussions should be for AI/AN community members.
Review of Meeting Minutes	The meeting minutes of September 2025 were approved. Motion by Jessica Mosher to approve minutes and seconded by Avril Cordova .
Indigenous Mindfulness Exercise	Skipped agenda item.
Report Outs & Community Updates	Community Planning Team (CPT) Meeting – October 14th, 2025. Mirtala Parada Ward: Echoed the need for co-chairs (or representatives) to attend the meetings.
Discussion-based Presentation	<i>Tribal Local Opioid Coalition Project</i> Presented by Eva Powless and Claire Kobren.
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. Mirtala Parada Ward: - UsCC Meetings will be recorded – it is within the bylaws and a BHSA decision/rule.
Community Announcements/ Resources	
Community Comments	
Closing Prayer	Jessica Mosher provided a closing prayer.
Upcoming Meeting: Wednesday, November 5th, 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/	