Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
AI-AN Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC)
Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
January 7th, 2026, from 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Present: Yailin Noriega, Jessica Wiechec, riKu Matsuda, Nancy Steward, Molly Aday, Anna Yaralyan, Mikey Olbes, Jessica Mosher, Suyapa Umanzor, Darlene Ayala, Kathleen Dvorak Ashelford, Rosario Ribleza, Anna Kate Mohler, Lesley Hunt, Roberta Javier (#2503), Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood, Patricia Kusaba, Antonio Rios, Melanie Estrella, Stephanie Mushrush, Stacy Dalgleish, Yue Hua Xu, Laura (AICC), Nathaniel Gonzalez, No Name (#4589), Sharnall Stone, Lesley Washington, Dewayne Hervey

CART Captioner: Cindy Kim
DMH Admin: Carla Jaramillo

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
Welcome, Intros, & Opening Prayer	Welcome by Co-chair, **Jessica Mosher** – Ice breaker: *Hidden habit, talent, unusual hobby?* Opening Prayer – **Miss Nancy Steward** provided an opening prayer.
Land Acknowledgment	**Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood** provided a Land Acknowledgement.
DMH Community Agreements	**Dr. Jaramillo** shared screen and summarized the DMH Community Agreements.
Review of Meeting Minutes	The meeting minutes of December 2025 were approved. Motion by **Mikey Olbes** to approve minutes and seconded by **Nancy Steward**.
Indigenous Mindfulness Exercise	**Sacred Oaks Healing Center – *Molly Aday*** Shared a few minutes of an "Apache Creation Story" which Molly voiced that the stories she shared are only to be shared during the Winter months. Voiced the importance of language and stories.
Discussion: Mission Statement	**Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood**: the mission statement should be on the flyer. **Dr. Jaramillo** shared screen of the AI/AN UsCC Webpage. Mission statement is under the AI/AN logo on the official tri-fold brochure. **Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood**: Suggested to table discussion – let community members think on it. **Kathleen Ashelford**: First time she has seen brochure. Asked to have access to see the brochure for feedback. **Dr. Jaramillo:** Will share the brochure with the distribution list. **Kathleen** seconded motion to table discussion. **Jessica** read out guidelines/key characteristics (according to Google) of a mission statement. **Kathleen** requested to include mission statement guidelines and eligible voting members in email with current brochure.

Report Outs & Community Updates	Community Planning Team (CPT) Meeting **Rosario Ribleza**: Last meeting was December 9th. - Highlighted the updates of BHSA community planning process and other events/activities. Discussions on prevention and early intervention programs as well as child and transitional aged youth continuum of services. Next in-person meeting is Tuesday, January 20th, 2026, from 9:30am – 3:00pm at DMH Headquarters located at 510 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, CA, 90020. Free parking. Terrace level (9th floor) conference room. Meetings are always on the second (2nd) Tuesday of the month. - The integrated plan draft will be presented, and community stakeholders will have the opportunity to provide feedback. **Jessica Mosher**: Voiced request to have someone from the office of Tribal Affairs to be in attendance when the draft is presented to the State. Voiced the importance of being a part of the process. Department of Health Care Services Tribal and Indian Health Programs: Upcoming meeting on February 19th, 2026. Shared link in the chat. Meeting is going over policy – what/how changes are coming with Medi-Cal and how it affects the Native population. There are moments for comments – appreciates if others can attend and comment. **Commissioner Stacy Dalgleish**: Hybrid Town Hall on CARE Court on January 26th, 2026, at 5:30pm. **riKu** and **Commissioner Dalgleish** provided information in the chat. **Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood**: Will there be individuals there to provide information to community members? There will be information provided and individuals available to answer questions and possibly walk you through the process. **Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood** and **Jessica**: Suggested to have a presentation on CARE Court. **Darlene Ayala:** UAII will be opening a childcare center in SA1. Working to become a Headstart. Culturally centered. Different tribes will be introduced to the centers. Free community event designed to promote wellness, cultural education, and awareness of services available in the area. Capacity of 120 folks. Free parking and food. Two (2) available tables for organizations/programs looking to outreach. Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood:
Presentation - Sacred Oaks Healing Center	**Sacred Oaks Healing Center – *Molly Aday, MSW, ASW*** California Indian Health Service – Youth Regional Treatment Centers - Sacred Oaks Healing Center in Davis, California. Sister site is Desert Sage Wellness Center in Hemet, California.

	- Both affiliated with the California Indian Health Service – federal facilities and federal positions. - Provide holistic behavioral health care for AI/AN adolescents and their families in a substance-free residential environment that integrates traditional healing and spirituality, and culture. - Each center has a capacity of 32 residents at a time. However, the capacity is limited due to staff availability. Currently, the capacity is 16 for each facility. - Dependent of the federal government. - Accept out of state residents. - Recently partnered with Medi-Cal from Nevada and Arizona. - Provide residential treatment for AI/AN youth with a primary diagnosis of substance use disorder for adolescents between the age of 12-17. (They can turn 18 in the program). - Consent from the youth is required. - Offer treatment groups such as Mending Broken Hearts, Medicine Wheel and 12 Steps, and Dialectical Behavior Therapy. - Offer various services such as: Behavioral health counseling, Substance use counseling, individual and group counseling, family therapy, traditional arts & crafts, cultural activities, field/recreational trips, educational opportunities, academic and life-skills education, on-site recreational spaces. Fitness room, access to medical & dental care, on-site kitchen serving meals and snacks daily, etc. - There are 5 levels in the program. The first level is orientation. Levels 1-4 are two (2) weeks each. Level 5 is four (4) weeks. Recreational outings are granted starting at Level 3. - The youth reside in groups based on gender and pair with a roommate. - Each wing is staffed 24/7. - Advocates for Family Reunification. Family visits are allowed on-site, and participants are allowed to leave the site for a night or weekend pass starting in Level 4. **Jessica**: Describe how the program is an alternative to incarceration. Sometimes tribes will request for youth to join a program rather than be incarcerated or request for time to be reduced. It depends on the legal and tribal implementation. The centers do not force anyone to be there. Yes, they can be appointed to the Healing center by the court/tribe, but the youth must consent to join the program. Interviews are stopped automatically as soon as the youth voices not wanting to be there. Do you work with the Friendship House in San Francisco? Has not kept in touch with them. Their program is usually for 18+. **Lesley Hunt**: Wants to clarify some intake parameters. If a youth has been deemed violent or has had an altercation, they will not be accepted, correct? It varies from case to case. It depends if the behavior was towards themselves or others, how and when it happened, were they under the influence, were they with peers, in a heated argument. Often they do get a lot of people with behavioral issues with signifies the co-occurrent behavioral issues. Really great program but wants community to understand that they are limited based on clinician/professional staff. What is your average consistent size of youth? Clinically, right now, 16. Critical to get the staff that we need. Other states have IHS hospitals that are fully staffed and paid – to hear that we are accepting youth from those states is hard. We have youth in California that need the services. Will provide supervisor and directors contact information in the chat. **Sylvia-Gonzales-Youngblood**: If youth are allowed to make the decision, that is why we are having CARE

	Court and the issues we are having now. They do not have the mental capacity and understanding to make crucial decisions. We are manufacturing individuals to continue going down paths of substance use and behavioral issues by taking the voice of the parents. If there's a chance to change that component – it should be considered. **Lesley Hunt**: Do you have the information for YRT? Meetings for the northern and southern facilities? No. Will provide supervisor and directors contact information in the chat and will give feedback to her superiors.
DMH Updates/Follow-Ups	**Suyapa Umanzor**: - Two projects about to start. - Focus groups starting for Urban Native 4-1-1. Flyers have been approved. **LACDMH Stakeholder Newsletter**: No due date for Q1 yet. **2025 Cultural Competency Plan** has been completed and submitted to the State. Should be available in the next week on the DMH Website. Dr. Jaramillo shared screen how to access it. No longer having Capacity Building Projects after FY25-26. New UsCC Supervisor – Dr. Jessica Wiechec
Community Announcements/ Resources/Comments	Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood: Funding for CBP. If it comes through, would the name and parameters be the same? Remind the group that she can provide mental health and wellness workshops. Reach out to her if interested. Certificate is given based on attendance. Funding is still pending. Unlikely have the same name (Capacity Building Projects). There is a proposal. Waiting for feedback.
Closing Prayer	**Lesley Hunt** provided a closing prayer.
Upcoming Meeting: Wednesday, February 4th, 2025 (2:00pm - 4:00pm) 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/	