



Latino UsCC
Cultivating Healthy Communities
Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health

Meeting Minutes

Latino UsCC Subcommittee Meeting

Date: October 21, 2025

Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Location: Virtual Meeting (Microsoft Teams)

Co-Chairs: Maria Elena Aruaco

Participants: Ana Mejia; Angelina Mendoza; Augusto Huerta-Minakata; Coach Afi; Elsy A Molina; Gabriela Gonzalez; Graciela Flores-Garcia; Gustavo Loera; Jennyfer Ibarra-McMahon; Lilia Morales-Perez; Maria Guerra; Martha Ortiz; Monica J. Martinez; Myrka Martinez; Patricia Kusaba; Ramona Chatman-Morris; Sara Z Mijares; Yolanda Becerra-Jones;

DMH/Interpreters/Captioners: *Alex(Interpreter); Alicia Morales; Dr. Ana Yaralyan; Angela Guzman; Barbara Meyer; Claudia (Interpreter); Claudia Fierro; Dr. Carla Jaramillo; Dr. Chiyah Lawrence; Dr. Christina Barnes-Matthews ;Darlesh K. Horn; Dr. Evelyn E. Espinoza; Katryna Rangel (presenter); Kesha Bristow; Leonard Slutsky; Marianna Klee; Melissa Pantoja; Michelle Thomassian; Mirtala Parada Ward; Regina Ramirez; riKu Matsuda; Sara Hill (CART Transcriber), Sonny Monge; Stephany Romero (Presenter); Suyapa Umazor; Victor Manalo; Yolanda Renteria (Presenter); Yue Hua (CART services), Zuleima Molgado*

1. Welcome & Opening

- **Dr. Jaramillo-** Participants were reminded today's meeting would be held in English per quarterly agenda. Provided information on Spanish interpretation available via link in chat box and recommendations to watch slides and content in main room and listen in to Spanish interpretation via call in.
 - **Shared video with regards to Hispanic Heritage month.** Information read aloud by Dr. Jaramillo on content.
 - **Verified Eligibility voting participants as well as reviewed attendance.**

- **Land acknowledgment by Mirtala Parada-Ward**
- **Community Agreements for Stakeholders Summary by Dr. Carla Jaramillo.**

2. Welcome – Ice breaker question: What are you doing to contribute to the Latino Community

- **Maria Elena:** reviewed some information with regards to cultural influence in the community
- Community members shared personal stories and thoughts related to sharing with regards to the Hispanic culture and traditions
 - Cultural events related to Dia de Los Muertos was shared by community members and reshared via Latino Meeting Distribution list
 - Mirtala encouraged on going commitment to participating actively in UsCC as a way to aide in helping educate the community on mental health

3. Presenter: Dr. Victor Manolo, Behavior Health Commissioner chair

- Shared information with regards to his new position as chair
- Expressed gratitude for community engagement in helping the community
- Encouraged on going participation to continue improvements in advising DMH and the department on community needs
- Community members asked questions:
 - If financial aide is available for community with regards to immigration raids? BHSA funds unavailable but will follow up
 - Co-chairs providing update at BHC meetings
 - Will assistance be given for schools/children/families with regards to immigration raids? Pending item with regards to data review and LA County and behavioral health to discuss issues related to children and families needs.
 - Community member thanked commissioner with regards to engaging with Antelope Valley community as there is a high presence of Latinos in the community and need for resources

4. Presenter: Alternate Crisis Response (ACR) -Kesha Bristow and Sonny Monshe

- Provided program information and shared information in chat
- Community members asked questions with regards to program and language access

5. Meeting minutes review

- Approved by Gabriela Gonzales
- 2nd motion by Gustavo Loera

6. Community Planning Team meeting updates: Maria Elena

- Provided information with regards to CPT meeting on 10/14/25
- Information given on psychosis mental health services
- Dr. Jaramillo shared how to attend BHSA meetings for the remainder of the year

7. DMH Updates: Mirtala Parada Ward

- Encouraged on going co-chair and communitymember attendance to BHSA meeting and CPT meeting
 - Reminded of open co-chair opportunity
 - Gabriela Gonzales nominated Yolanda Bacera-Jones in the chat
 - Reminding community of report-outs
 - CBP updates
 - Awarding of CBPs to be announced soon
 - Reminding of no current budget for 26-27 fiscal year so at this time no brainstorming for CBPs
 - Community member inquired if there is advocacy for CBP
 - Mirtala encouraged members of the community to advocate as DMH employees can not on behalf of the UsCC groups
- Reminded SB43 meeting in UsCC

8. Labor Acknowledgement: Dr. Carla Jaramillo

Next Meeting:

Date: November 18, 2025

Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Location: Virtual (Microsoft Teams)