

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

Present: Yailin Noriega, riKu Matsuda, Mirtala Parada Ward, Suyapa Umanzor, Nancy Steward, Toni Craigs-Thomas, Kathleen Dvorak Ashelford, Rafael Benitez-Nicolas, Anabelle Custodio, Janet Campos, Scott Black, Lavinia Arakilians, Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood, Juan Recinos, Patricia Kusaba, Jessica Mosher, Marianne Klee, Nathaniel Gonzalez, Harrelson Notah, Angelle Hill-Seetal, Susana Ascencion, Irene Ratliff, Roberta Javier, Rae Lopes, Soledad Vergara, Farrah Ferris, Yue Hua Xu, Olina Bishop, Angelina Mendoza 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: <i>What is your favorite song to listen to that lifts you up?</i> Opening Prayer – Jessica Mosher 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 January 2026 were approved. Motion by Nancy Steward to approve minutes and seconded by Harrelson Notah .
Indigenous Mindfulness Exercise – Community Action	Jessica Mosher Three new policies before the assembly. Shared link in the chat: Ramos introduces three bills highlighting children and youth in combatting opioid deaths, foster youth resources, and accurate tribal youth data Assemblymember James C. Ramos - AB 1579: - o Address complex needs of foster youth. - o Expand allowable programs under the Children’s Crisis Continuum Pilot Program. - AB 1581: - o Address the lack of Native American students in the education system. - o 70% of students were not represented in data. - Close that gap. - AB 1586: - o School Safety and Opioid Overdose Prevention Act. - o It would require school resource officers to carry naloxone. To support the bills – Write your assembly member specifically and ask them to vote “yes” on the bills when they

	go before the floor. There are different templates/verbiage you can search up if needed. Nothing is more important to an assemblymember than a handwritten letter. You can become active by writing to your assembly member.
Discussion: Mission Statement	Jessica Mosher: Last month we brought up the mission statement. Do you want to keep it the same, change it, update it to be more relevant or is it currently fine? The mission statement is on the pamphlet – it is the paragraph under the artwork. Current mission statement is: <i>The American Indian / Alaska Native (AI/AN) Underserved Cultural Community Subcommittee is committed to ensuring that our voices of American Indian/Alaska Natives who reside in Los Angeles County are heard. As UsCC members, we join together to address the mental health issues impacting the underserved and underserved within our communities, bring awareness to the nature of services needed, and advocate for inclusion.</i> Dr. Jaramillo: Mirtala let us know that due to the rollover from MHSA to BHSA, all the pamphlets are open for redesign. We can redesign the logo and go through the flyer to decide if anything – not just the mission statement – needs some updating. If you have any suggestions, feel free to email us.' Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood: Thinks a working group needs to be established so that people can sit and go through the pamphlet. Likes the idea of the logo being redesigned. Currently it looks a little stereotypical. The Native people on the logo do not have representative skin color. Would like to see a Tongva person with their traditional hair/head dress. Jessica Mosher: Could you explain or give the history of the logo? Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood: <i>We made the logo. Maybe about 9 years ago. Sonny was helpful in the design of the logo.</i> Toni Craigs-Thomas: Would like a collective effort – not just a work group – for everyone to be involved. Thinks the skin color of the Native people on the logo is representative of a Native American that is not mixed with Chicano or European bloodlines. The skin is very red and brown. Jessica Mosher: A workgroup was proposed. How should names be collected? Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood: <i>Anyone who is interested in participating – then create a schedule prior to the next meeting. Maybe we meet once a week. Get the names of the people who can participate and create a schedule that can align with everyone. Names can be collected now – an email can be sent out to the larger group.</i> Jessica Mosher: The email is in the chat. We will build an email list and coordinate meeting times and see if we can re-tool the flyer to current needs. Farrah Ferris: The flyer was re-done about a year and a half ago under Farrah's and Shannon's Co-chair term. There should be a brochure. It was re-done under Dr. Jen. Has the link for the draft under her Canva and can share the link if needed. Jessica Mosher: We will consult with the draft that Farrah/Shannon worked on before moving on with the redesign. Will mainly reflect the draft. Also, since we are moving away from the Capacity Building Projects we need to find another way to really activate the community. Circumstances have changed. Farrah Ferris: Confirmed still having the Canva link. Dr. Jaramillo: Asked Farrah to send the link to the AI-AN UsCC email. She will forward to the group. During the

	transition – some things were not shared or sent to Dr. Jaramillo. Was not aware of the draft. The flyer being shared on the screen is the one that was approved by PIO department. Farrah Ferris: Do you know the date that the flyer was approved? Carla Jaramillo: Does not know how long the flyer has been in use or when it was approved by PIO. Before Dr. Jaramillo's time. Yailin Noriega: It was approved in May of 2025. It was the flyer that was worked on between December 2024 – March 2025. Farrah Ferris: No. That is not the brochure that was brought to the subcommittee. Again, it's the principality. Something that DMH did. The flyer does not represent the views or voice of Native Americans. There was a Tongva picture. It is not the flyer that was discussed in meetings. The mission statement was different as well. Farrah will reach out to community members. Jessica Mosher: Yes, elders that know the history can show some perspective on the mission statement. Focus on California Native voices. No vote today, move to form a workgroup. The email to participate is in the chat. We will start/work from Farrah's draft.
Report Outs & Community Updates	Community Planning Team (CPT) Meeting Jessica Mosher: There were technical difficulties at the last meeting. Not much of an update. They're going to try to catch up in the next meeting. Dr. Jaramillo: The next meeting is February 10th, 2026. It will be at Headquarters located at 510 S. Vermont. You can join in person or virtually. Jessica Mosher: For those joining in person, where would you recommend parking? How is the parking situation? Dr. Jaramillo: There is a parking garage on Vermont and another entrance on Shatto. You can park there. There is also street parking. There is a PDF file in the chat with parking instructions shared by riKu. Shared screen of the parking instructions. Jessica Mosher: Any questions about the CPT meeting? Any concerns that you want uplifted in the meeting? There is a question in the chat by Farrah - <i>previously DMH offered parking vouchers/payment, is this available for elders?</i> riKu replied in the chat – <i>parking is free and will be validated.</i> Farrah Ferris: Which parking structure are we talking about and will the attendant know that it is being paid for/validated ahead of time? Before, the parking tickets/vouchers would be emailed, and we would print take it. Mirtala Parada Ward: You will get the parking permit/ticket and when you get to the terrace level which is where the meeting will be (9th floor), the guard will validate the ticket once you leave. It is a new building, so it is a different process from the previous building. Bring the parking ticket with you to get it validated by the security on the terrace level (9th floor). Farrah Ferris: So, nothing will be sent to us? No validation before arriving to the meeting? Mirtala Parada

	Ward: No. Just bring the ticket that you get when you enter the parking structure with you to get validated by the security guard on the 9th floor. Jessica Mosher: As Stakeholders / users that utilize the services from the County – do you have any feedback or anything that you want uplifted at the next CPT meeting? Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) Form Jessica Mosher: We have this new form that is being shared on the screen (Stakeholder Group Report to the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC). As a group, we need to submit a report by the 5th of every month to be able to communicate with the Behavioral Health Commission. There are two pages with questions. My question is: <i>do you want to fill it out together and make it as a part of the meeting or do you want to send email notes as you see fit?</i> Jessica Mosher read out the questions to the subcommittee. Wants there to be action on the form. We will expect status updates or the “no and why”. There will be accountability. We will not come up with ideas for them not to be implemented. Roberta Javier: Would like a copy of the information – email the form. Would be happy to respond to the questions. Farrah Ferris: Second Roberta’s request. Give people at least a week to respond. Having forms ahead of time gives the community time to prepare. Jessica Mosher: We will generate answers as a group and compile those on the form for approval. Carla Jaramillo: We can also create a form that has the same questions that people can respond to and collect responses that way. For now, we can submit with the information that we have as it is due tomorrow. Community members can send responses to AI/AN UsCC email. Next time around we can send out what works for the community. Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood: For the accomplishments, add in the Capacity Building Projects and the great work that So’oh-Shinálí Sister Project and POWER did. The creative ways that they managed to reach community. It is very important to uplift the efforts of the vendors. Jessica Mosher: Will complete the form after the meeting and send it out for any changes that members want made. Carla Jaramillo: Reminder that we are limited to three-minute report-outs to the BHC. Shared screen of the BHC meeting schedule and invited members to join the meetings.
Presentation – American Indian Community Council (AICC)	American Indian Community Council (AICC) – Kathleen Dvorak Ashelford & Roberta Javier - AICC was initially American Indian Children’s Center and was a group that received annual funding of \$100k from LA County. - Their breaking up came up around early 2000s when the County was going into SPAs and the community does not have a town (Little Tokyo, Korea Town, Little Armenia, etc.) - LA County cut off their funding altogether and American Indian Children’s Center closed. (2009-2010) - In 2010, American Indian Community Council was founded to continue and expand its work.

- AICC exists to empower Native Americans in LA County and surrounding areas to realize self-determination, wellness, and economic opportunity.
- The population in Los Angeles has the largest Urban Native population in the Country.
 - o Places like the Native community in Los Angeles came because of the Indian Relocation Act where Native Americans were moved or persuaded to move by the government from their own lands with the promise of jobs, a better life, and better opportunities for their children. In many cases, they ended up being on Skid Row because there was no support. When people arrived from their reservations, they were just dropped off and left on their own.
- COVID hit Urban Native non-profit/organizations hard. AICC almost closed.
- Lost its non-profit status – began to rebuild the organization. Doors re-opened.
- In 2023, AICC began to have events and programs again (the Toy Drive never stopped)
- In 2024, AICC continued to have monthly meetings with Native and ally subject matter experts in all fields and disciplines. They are now virtually but they used to be held in person.
- They are doing a series of workshops called Navigating Adulthood in 2026 with DMH and are also doing The Red Pages.

Navigating Adulthood:

- AICC was holding Financial Education Workshops that Roberta found integral for every youth in America – especially to Native youth in foster care and in general.
- When the opportunity came to bid, Roberta applied.
- Will be beneficial to the youth to understand what they do/not know and learn now.
- Recruiting all youth from 16-25 that identify/reside in LA County. Required to pre-register on their website.
- There will be 4 workgroups – each youth is required to attend 2 workgroups.
- The workgroups will be held in 4 different SPAs. (Event Flyer was shared on the screen)
 - o Workgroup A: Echo Park: February 14th
 - o Workgroup B: SPA 8 Location TBD: March 14th
 - o Workgroup A: SPA 1 Location TBD: April 9th
 - o Workgroup B: SPA 2/4 Location TBD: May 9th

Red Pages:

- AICC was internally building up the Red Pages.
- Make the Red Pages an asset and valuable.
- UAI has the Red Pages from start to finish – UAI has asked AICC to collaborate.
- Collecting information on their website.

Jessica Mosher: When do you meet? **Kathleen Dvorak Ashelford:** Monthly meetings are on the second Tuesday of every month in the evening via Zoom. AICC has a Facebook and Instagram page. **Roberta Javier:** The meeting on March 10th is at 6pm – the speaker is Diana Zuniga who will be talking about nature and natural wellness and health.

Kathleen Dvorak Ashelford: Ended the presentation with a prayer.

DMH Updates/Follow-Ups	Mirtala Parada Ward: - DMH Multicultural Conference will be March 17th and 18th. Registration will open next week. Be on the lookout for the information in your emails. - There will be 200 scholarships for community to be able to attend free of charge. - The registration will include the information to apply for a scholarship. - Wants help and feedback – the call for presenters was open for about a month and a half. We got a total of 78 calls for presenters. The goal of the conference is to be anchored around each one of the UsCC's and make sure that every underserved community has workshops. - For the Native American community, we only got two workshop proposals and one of them is Dr. Dickerson and Andrea Garcia. We received another one, but it needs some work. Gave ideas on how to expand the workshop that was submitted to include mental health aspects. - Mirtala left a placeholder for the community. It will be a one-hour workshop if anyone would like to present workshop. If anyone is interested – submit their own workshop proposal or work with the member that submitted the second proposal that needs work. - Moving forward with 32 workshops but wants there to be at least two workshops for the Native community. - Reach out to Mirtala if interested. - The conference is \$35 for two days and includes breakfast and lunch for both days. Capacity Building Project Updates – Suyapa Umanzor - We have already heard from Roberta Javier regarding the Navigating Adulthood Project. - Olina is working on the Urban Native 411 Resource guide. Will be starting their focus groups soon. - o Almost halfway through the project. Has been meeting with the workgroups over the last few weeks. - o If you have an organization that you think should go in the resource guide – please send to Olina. - o Invited everyone to be a part of the focus groups – held from February (?) 24th through February 28th. There will be 5 focus groups. Four virtual from 6:30pm-7:30pm. A flyer will be sent out that includes the link to register as well as the link to join the meeting. After the 4 virtual focus groups – there will be 1 in person which will be hosted in Pico Rivera on Saturday, February 28th, from 10am – 11pm. Harrelson Notah and Rae Lopes will be assisting in facilitating that focus group. - o Each focus group will include an opening prayer and land acknowledgement. - o Looking for 5-8 Native individuals per focus group. There will be an incentive for attending. - o All feedback is welcome. Sylvia Gonzales-Youngblood: Will the pages be specifically Native American organizations or will it include organizations who can assist in the advancement and benefit of Native people? Olina Bishop: <i>It will be a mixture of both. The Native led organizations are prioritized and there will be a section within the same category that lists the non-Native/Native ally organizations.</i> Would love to see organizations on parenting and how to access parenting classes and resources like positive Indian parenting. Would also like to see resources for advocates who assist parents in education/school system and attorneys. Also resources to classes to better understand the education system. <i>Harrelson Notah was a big part of the education part of the resource guide. Rae Lopes has some history of advocating, so we got resources from her as well. If you have information please</i>
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	email or show up for a focus group. Will research more on the parenting classes. Harrelson Notah: The positive Indian parenting classes will be from UAI and Sacred Path. They already host those workshops. Uses the community colleges because they all have resource centers for veterans, foster youth, and parenting which school districts do not have. Stakeholder Newsletter Q1 2026 Call for Content Submissions Opened on Monday, January 19th, 2026 Content Submissions due on Thursday, February 5th, 2026 The theme is – Intention and Possibility: A Focus on Youth Perspectives
Community Announcements/ Resources/Comments	
Closing Prayer	Jessica Mosher provided a closing prayer.
Upcoming Meeting: Wednesday, April 1st, 2026 (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/	