

**Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
AI-AN Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC)
Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
April 1st, 2026, from 2:00pm - 4:00pm**

Present: Yailin Noriega, riKu Matsuda, Nancy Steward, Kathleen Dvorak Ashelford, Scott Black, Patricia Kusaba, <i>Jessica Mosher</i>, Roberta Javier, Rae Lopes, Soledad Vergara, Kusaba Erica, Chiyah Lawrence, DeWayne Hervey, Jessica Wiechec, Stephanie Mushrush CART Captioner: Ross Senack 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 the place you wish you can be right now?</i> Opening Prayer – Nancy Steward provided an opening prayer.
Land Acknowledgment	Jessica Wiechec 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 February 2026 were approved. Motion by Nancy Steward to approve minutes and seconded by Roberta Javier .
Indigenous Mindfulness Exercise	Jessica Mosher played a five (5) minute video of Charlie Hill Stand Up.
Report Outs & Community Updates	Carla Jaramillo: - Community Planning Team (CPT) meetings are still on hold until May. - Welcomed everyone back to UsCC meetings – took a break in March to update our systems to allow for safer spaces. - Received trainings internally on how to respond appropriately for any meeting disruptors. - Upcoming Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) meeting – April 9th, 2026. Jessica Mosher: - The deadline to submit BHC survey/form has changed from the 5th of every month to the 1st. - Communication moving forward regarding feedback for the BHC form will most likely be via email. - Feedback is important. Has heard that the other UsCC's are very much on track with letting the BHC know what unique needs their communities need. Wants to uplift the needs of the AI/AN community. - Asked the group if there is anything the County should know about or needs to address. (No response) - Shared that she wants to address the whispers/rumors regarding transitional rent. A new service – has heard that some counties are asking for enrollees to disenroll from their Indian Health Clinic and only be enrolled in their Behavioral Health Center within in their county. It is not what the policy was supposed to be about.

	Where you get the help should not matter as long as you are getting the help. Plans to write something about to address concerns. Office of Tribal Affairs will support Jessica's submission. Asked if there was anything to add or change. Roberta Javier: Asked for Jessica to repeat. Jessica Mosher: - Transitional rent allows for rent to be paid for up to about half a year. For people that are unhoused – meant to help them get stabilized and educate about services that are available. Very beneficial. - Has heard that some counties are pushing back and not allowing for enrollees/participants to be enrolled in two clinics/services at once. - Jessica has checked and confirmed that what counties are enforcing are misinterpretations of the policy. - Policy started in January and is changing as time goes by. Nancy Steward: Do you need to have financial hardships to obtain transitional rent assistance? Jessica Mosher: - It's in the context of substance use disorder and documented long-term mental health issues. - It needs to be a combination of both not just one – as well as needing to be housed to qualify. Carla Jaramillo: Do you happen to have a website to share? Jessica Mosher: Yes. Will share it while the meeting continues. Jessica Mosher: - Invited members to attend the BHC meeting. - Shared that it is starting at 10am in April instead of its regular 11am schedule. Carla Jaramillo: Shared screen of a flyer with information about transportation being provided for both April 9th and May 11th BHC executive meeting. For questions or further information, reach out to Dr. Darlesh Horn. Flyer was sent out to distribution list but can send it again if needed. The flyer is also available in the chat.
BHSA Updates & Follow-ups	Carla Jaramillo: - Moved on to discuss upcoming Co-chair elections (Dr. Horn was not in attendance to discuss BHSA updates/new Bylaws). - Election process will begin in May/June. - New Co-chair will begin their term effective July 1st. - You can self-nominate or nominate another member via chat, verbally in meeting, or email.

	Carla shared screen to show what would be required of a co-chair. <u>What is required of co-chairs once elected?</u> Once elected, Co-Chairs for all stakeholder groups must attend: • Mandatory Co-Chair Orientation annually in June/July • A minimum of 75% of the agenda planning meetings for their stakeholder group with the LACDMH Liaison • A minimum of 75% of the scheduled monthly Stakeholder group meetings. • A minimum of 75% of the BHSA Stakeholder Community Planning Team (CPT) meetings and provide input on behalf of their stakeholder group • A minimum of 75% of the monthly joint Outreach and Engagement meetings following the CPT in-person meeting. • Attend a minimum of 75% of the monthly Mental Health Commission meetings <u>Who is eligible to apply for co-chair?</u> Voting members in good standing can <u>self-nominate</u> or <u>be nominated</u> by another voting member for a vacant Co-Chair position. <u>Who is eligible to vote in the co-chair election?</u> Members who have attended 55% of meetings in the last 6 months (at least 5 out of 9 meetings) are eligible to vote. - Jessica is welcome to continue her role as co-chair as well. Yailin Noriega shared list of eligible voting members in the chat. Carla Jaramillo: - Encouraged eligible members to nominate selves or others. - Explained benefits of having two co-chairs. (Take turns attending meetings and having both votes counted at CPT meetings) Jessica Mosher: Does anyone want to self-nominate? Carla Jaramillo: Does anyone want to nominate or ask Jessica questions about her experience as co-chair?
DMH Updates/Follow-Ups	Capacity Building Project Updates Roberta Javier: - Goal was to educate up to 100 either enrolled or self-identified people who were Indigenous, Native American, or Alaska Native and in between the ages of 16-25. - Bring participants a broad scope of Indigenous financial literacy. - <u>A reality that was faced: difficulty in gathering participants – conflict in scheduling.</u> (x4) - Sessions are 7 hours. Participants will receive a generous stipend. Participants need to attend two sessions. - Most participants were over the age of 18. - There's an evaluation and a pre/post questionnaire that participants are required to complete before receiving stipend. They have received positive feedback. - Traditional meals, snacks, and drinks are also required to be provided for the participants. - Various challenges faced at first Session – Traditional meal caterer canceled about 20 minutes prior and a few of the students canceled with little to no explanation. - Traditional meal for second session was Three Sisters Stew with protein. They also had succotash over the moon, a rice salad, and blue corn cookies. The kids related well.

- There was a young man from the Reservation that was thrilled at the second session (was not very happy at the first session).
- Looking forward to next two sessions which will complete the project.
- Next sessions are on Saturday, April 11th (in Santa Clarita) and May 9th (in Arcadia).
- Invited/encouraged subcommittee members to share information.

Carla Jaramillo provided CBP updates in Suyapa's absence:

- Urban 4-1-1
- Olina has concluded the project.
- Project will be presented in May.
- Birth to Five: Nature to Nurture
- Starting on Friday. Flyer was provided by Dr. Wiechec in the chat.
- They are still accepting enrollment.
- Providing a workgroup for 3 different age groups (0-1 yr, 1-3 yrs, 3-5 yrs)
- 12-week project.

Jessica Mosher:

- Backtrack – forgot about the UsCC meeting updates.
- Shared screen – put together a PowerPoint of an event for the opening of the newest Los Angeles American Indian Health Center in Pomona.

Scott Black:

- They are trying their best to move the project forward.
- Looking for partners – open to any suggestions and input.
- They have an HRSA funded mobile mammograph truck.
- They have a few partnerships lined up – Harbor Radiology has been very cooperative with the program and have agreed to read any images that hospitals/local facilities aren't able to.
- Hoping to open the health care facility as soon as possible.
- Believes some behavioral health programs will be open within the next 30 days.
- A lot of the building needs to be remodeled for dental and medical services.
- Looking for a community involvement council – asked if he can share a survey after the meeting.
- Their hope is that the council will develop into a board of directors.

Jessica Mosher provided the address in the chat. When will the facility be opened?

Scott Black:

- They're in the final stages.
- They have designed the rooms for the dental services and are trying to get the rooms for the medical services.
- They have completed enough work for tentative improvements instead of starting from scratch.
- Hoping to have some cultural programs and counseling available by the end of April.

Jessica Mosher: What dental services will be available?

Scott Black: General dentistry, endodontics, building 4 oral surgery rooms (partnership with Western University is allowing faculty practice – where professors will be able to continue practicing both surgery and anesthesia).

Excited to have Native American providers.

Jessica Mosher: It's hard to find someone who offers braces. This is a huge benefit to the community – excited to see it implemented.

- Reiterated that the center is looking for community leaders.
- Asked Scott to introduce himself as he was not introduced previously.

Scott Black:

- Chief Executive Officer of the American Indian Health & Services in Santa Barbara and the Los Angeles American Indian Health Centers.

Jessica Mosher: Wanted to highlight that while Scott was giving her a tour of the facility, he was introducing her to some of his staff members that were Native American. She was in awe of Natives serving other Natives. She was impressed.

Jessica Mosher: Circle back to the newsletter.

Carla Jaramillo: They haven't set the information yet. It should be coming soon. Carla will distribute the information once it's received.

Carla Jaramillo: Shared the flyer for the Birth to Five CBP. The flyers will be sent out for both Financial Literacy and Birth to Five projects. Was able to look through the financial literacy booklet and found it very helpful.

Carla Jaramillo provided some information regarding BHSA in Dr. Horn's absence.

- Bylaws are updated every two years.
- Bylaws are listed on UsCC website. Scroll all the way to the bottom of the page.
- Dr. Horn is looking for input from the community regarding anything that can potentially be updated. Moving forward, we are not doing Capacity Building Projects starting July 1st under BHSA Administration.
- BHC is dedicating April 9th meeting to discuss the funding changes. Hopefully we will get a better idea of what the smaller scale projects will look like.
- For questions/comments feel free to email Dr. Jaramillo or Dr. Horn directly.
- Information for Co-Chairs can be found in the bylaws as well in case anyone is interested.
- Co-Chair Orientation Packet can also be found on UsCC Website.
- Shared other information that can be found on the website including past CBP projects, minutes, etc.

Jessica Mosher: Remembers that the last time the bylaws were updated was to change the attendance policy for eligibility to be Co-chairs. Co-chairs were previously required to attend multiple meetings consecutively – now, they are required to attend 5/9 meetings. Farrah voiced the importance of inclusiveness as life happens and individuals should not be excluded for not being able to attend every meeting. That was a change that was made and implemented.

Carla Jaramillo: Yes, feedback is taken into consideration. These meetings are for the community, and we want to hear from the community. All feedback is appreciated.

Dr. Wiechec provided more information / DMH Updates

	- There will be no verbal report outs during the April BHC meeting. - The entire BHC meeting will be dedicated to providing insight/information on the changes with BHSA and the integrated plan. - The Multi-Cultural Conference was about two weeks ago. - Thanked anyone that was able to attend or participate. - The conference was two days – there were lots of speakers, vendors, and workshops. - Thanked members for being able to attend the AI/AN UsCC meeting – especially since the March meeting had to be canceled. - Gave insight as to what was being done internally while the UsCC meetings were on hold which includes trainings around Teams, the Code of Conduct, procedures and protocols to ensure a safe space for the meetings/community. Jessica Mosher: Was there any other change made/implemented besides getting the upgrade? Dr. Wiechec: The changes were more for internal procedures. We had staff trainings to go over procedures as a team.
Community Announcements/ Resources/Comments	Jessica Mosher: Kathleen, don't you have an event coming up soon about math? Do you want to share about that? Kathleen Ashelford: AICC's monthly speaker gathering for April 14th in the evening via Zoom is featuring Donna Fernandez who is a Nationally Certified Teacher of Mathematics. She is co-director for an organization called The Alliance for Indigenous Math Circles. An initiative that developed in partnership with the Navajo Nation to teach Mathematicians to both parents and children on Reservations. Jessica Mosher: Shared flyer in the chat. Kathleen Ashelford: Guest speaker should be starting no later than 6:30pm. Hopes people can attend and bring questions. Try to make the meetings discussion focused. They have drawings at the end of meetings as well; participants have a chance at a prize. There's an email on the flyer to RSVP (which was shared in the chat). Stephanie Mushrush: Glad to be hearing about American Indian Community Council again. Asked for information about their meetings. Kathleen Ashelford: They are virtual on the second Tuesday of the month in the evening via Zoom. Is working on widening their social media presence. They have a LinkedIn page and are trying to revive their Instagram page. They are on Facebook. They have a YouTube channel, but it is not active.
Closing Prayer	Nancy Steward provided a closing prayer.
Upcoming Meeting: Wednesday, May 6th, 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/	