

**MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION (MHSOAC)**

Cultural and Linguistic Competence Committee

April 24, 2012

Sierra Health Foundation

1321 Garden Highway

Sacramento, CA 95833

(916) 922-4255

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Dr. Victor Carrion, Chair
Mertice "Gitane" Williams
Stacie Hiramoto
Raja Mitry
Amber Burkan
Gwen Slattery
Jo Ann Johnson
C. Rocco Cheng
Gwen Wilson
Delphine Brody*

Staff:

Jose Oseguera
Peter Best
Filomena Yeroshek

Others Attendees:

Vickie Mendosa
Melissa Durkin
Susan Garcia

***Participated via phone**

Meeting called to order at 10:10 AM

Review of Agenda and Welcome/Introductions

The Chair welcomed all in attendance and provided an overview of the offsite agenda. An extended introduction was performed by all in attendance and the membership stated their name, how long they have been on the CLCC, who they advocate for and discussed their one passion in life.

Discuss Past and Future CLCC Procedures

The Chair asked the membership to discuss Committee procedures that have worked in the past and others that need improvement. After everyone had a chance to express their feelings, the Chair moved on and focused on future goals.

The following are the discussion highlights:

- Concern that some Committee members in the past advocated a particular agenda and this made the Committee act disjointed.
- Committee did not communicate what culture means successfully to the Commission.

- Strong leadership was needed to accomplish goals.
- Some members felt that the Commission did not value the committee and this was evidenced by the attempt to eliminate the committee a couple of years ago. Additionally, there have been five Chairs in four years. This lack of consistency has hindered the effectiveness of the CLCC.
- Another member felt that the Commission was not focused on cultural issues, but were more interested in pleasing the governor.
- The Chair commented that the Committee needs to explore innovative ways to communicate with the Commissioners. Experiencing someone's culture is more important than what might be gleaned providing a slide presentation.
- The membership hoped the CLCC would contribute to policy decision making at a high level. For example, the Committee would review documents and policies to ensure they were culturally competent.
- There was concern the prior Chair did not raise concerns to the attention of the full Commission.
- A comment was made that the CLCC needs to explore ways to communicate with the Commission and provide a united message. Also learn how to be supportive of each other and not to take challenges personally.
- A suggestion was made to look at using alternative therapy practices such as Drumming, Talking Circles and Tai Chi, as a way to have the Commissioners experience various cultures.
- The Chair stated that he will do his best to create a safe, supportive environment where people feel free to bring ideas to the membership and to the Commission. The goal is to have the Commissioners learn about the communities we represent and to use that information when making decisions.

Individual Workgroup Discussions

After lunch, the Chair directed the membership to break into the following three workgroups: Reducing Disparities, Policy and Cultural Competence Presentation.

Tab 5 Report from Workgroups and Discuss/Develop Implementation Plan

Each workgroup provided a report of their discussions to the membership. The following is a synopsis of the report back as provided on the flip charts:

Policy Workgorup

- Identify the holder of the utilization data that was previously provided by the Department of Mental Health (DMH)
- Define utilization data
- Parameters of what data to capture (aggregate/disaggregate)
- What is available?
- Timeline for capturing data
- Rates for disparities

- Identify gaps (baseline)
- Identify individuals who are not captured in the current categories (i.e. LGBTQ, and specific nationalities)
- Monitor/feedback of MHSOAC's Disparities RFP
- Schedule priority of next steps
- Who owns the data?
- How will it be evaluated?
- Make recommendations

Reducing Disparities Workgroup

- Goal oriented
- Utilize Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards
- Get CLAS officially adopted, implemented or integrated
- Collaboration with other entities
- Government Entity Effort Matrix
 - Update
 - Find out what activities are effective
 - Look for the themes to increase collaboration

Cultural Competence Presentation Workgroup

- Individuals sharing their lived experience around cultural responsiveness
- Include individuals from different culture/age groups and across life span
- Client receiving services
- Family member
- Parent (young child or youth)
- How individuals dealt with challenges, barriers, understanding of values, cultural practices, language translation
- Stigma/discrimination within the system, family and community
- Cognitive dissonance education

The Chair closed the meeting with a group teambuilding exercise.

General Public Comment

- Everyone agreed that the offsite meeting was a useful teambuilding tool and should be repeated each year.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by

Peter W. Best, Staff Mental Health Specialist