

**PREPARED BY: Best, Oseguera****DATE MATERIAL PREPARED: 10/18/12**

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**AGENDA ITEM: Cultural Competence Presentation “Meeting the Challenge”****ENCLOSURES:**

- PowerPoint
- Presentation Evaluation Form

**OTHER MATERIAL RELATED TO ITEM: None**

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**Background:**

At the November 2011 Commission meeting, Jose Carniero, EdD, Director, Office of Minority Health Resource Center, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, conducted a presentation on the Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards. The objective of the presentation was to provide the Commissioners with knowledge about the CLAS Standards and their relevance to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission’s (MHSOAC’s/ Commission’s) role in the public mental health system. In January 2012, the MHSOAC adopted the Cultural and Linguistic Competence Committee’s (CLCC) 2012 Charter. Activity number one of the Charter directs the CLCC to develop, produce and conduct an annual Cultural and Linguistic Competence Training for the MHSOAC and staff. The CLCC spent portions of several committee meetings developing the content of this presentation so that it would be most relevant to the MHSOAC, building upon what was presented last year and introducing new cultural dimensions.

**Presentation:**

Tamu Nolfo, PhD, ONTRACK Program Resources will provide the Commission with a presentation entitled Cultural Competence: “Meeting the Challenge.” The presentation will outline how understanding and incorporating cultural competence practices and the CLAS Standards into the decision-making process of the Commission can increase creativity in problem-solving through new perspectives, ideas, and strategies, while promoting inclusion and equality.

The presentation will:

- Place the CLAS Standards in context for the work of the Commission
- Explore culture and how it impacts the mental health field
- Define and compare individual and organizational cultural and linguistic competence
- Enumerate and explain the five elements and seven indicators of culturally competent organizations
- Describe the opportunities and benefits that CLAS standards alignment can have for organizations, as well as how to address the inherent challenges
- Provide guidance for practical application of the CLAS standards to the decisions facing the Commissioners