

Community Engagement Workgroup Update

Community Engagement Workgroup Members: Amber Burkan, Gwen Slattery, JoAnn Johnson, Monica Nepomuceno, Kamila Baker.

Meetings: July 29, 2013.

Activity 1: Continue quarterly Community Forums and following each forum, provide the Commission with a summary report of potential policy implications.

- a. Assign four CLCC members and two alternates to serve on the Community Forum Workgroup.
- b. Determine strategies to encourage agencies, providers and communities to promote and involve participation for unserved, underserved and inappropriately served racial, ethnic, and cultural communities from across the lifespan.

Progress:

1a: This item has been completed. One member from the CLCC and Client and Family Leadership Committee (CFLC) member provided a forum summary report to the Commission at the May 23, 2013 and July 25, 2013 meetings.

1b:

- Place forum informational materials at homeless shelters, hand out at soup lines, local schools, low income apartments, hospitals, jails and children's services organizations.
- Use pamphlets or stickers in mass mailings.
- Initiate an art or poem contest and award the winner at the forum.
- Develop a bookmark to be handed out at the forum with MHSA and Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) contact information.
- A bookmark was created and included client artwork and website information for the MHSOAC, National Alliance on Mental Illness and the National Suicide Hotline.
- Modification to the bookmark has been discussed by workgroup members, but will need to be finalized and adopted by the CLCC.
- The bookmark was distributed at the Community Forums in Rohnert Park and Monterey as an incentive for individuals to complete their questionnaires.
- The bookmark suggestion has generated a 70% return rate.

Activity 2: Diversify the methods by which the MHSOAC hears concerns from people with lived experience of biological, psychological and social challenges.

- a. Determine strategies to expand and diversify participation in MHSOAC committees, stakeholder contracts, and MHSOAC meetings to the fullest extent.
- b. Determine strategies to expand methods by which people with lived experience can provide input (in person, online, written, other).

Progress/ Ideas:

- Incorporate webcasting and web streaming into Commission meetings.
- Possibly the day before the forum, have forum workgroup members, staff and Commissioners go out to community gathering sites where the forum will be held, to speak with unserved, underserved cultural, racial and ethnic community members about community needs and their experiences with mental health and the MHSA. The visits would focus on a specific unserved community and utilize more culturally appropriate methods of engagement (i.e., meeting in the community, changing meeting times to more appropriately accommodate community schedules and altering the format to better fit with community styles and norms).
- The workgroup will work with MHSOAC Communications Officer to explore how to start the process.
- Send MHSOAC logos to county mental health directors for distribution and posting at all MHSA funded program sites.
- Request counties use MHSA and MHSOAC logos on all county documents that relate to MHSA. This will help to ensure stakeholders know what programs are funded by MHSA.
- Use social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) to allow stakeholder to provide input on meeting and documents.
- Collect videos stories from stakeholders and place on the MHSOAC website.

Activity 6: Communicate progress in reducing mental health disparities to continue to build collaboration in access, quality and services.

Progress:

The Workgroup will discuss this activity at their next meeting.

Action Items:

At the June 19, 2013 CLCC Meeting, the following action items were suggested:

- Committee members were requested to send staff any recommendations of additional organizations to be listed on the bookmark.
- The Chair requested that this workgroup revise their recommendations and incorporate culturally relevant strategies to accomplish the activities and present them to the committee at the August 21, 2013 meeting.
- CLCC members were asked to send any additional comments or recommendations regarding the completion of CLCC Charter Activities Numbers 1 and 2 to staff.
- Discuss and develop strategies to complete Activity 6.