The California MHSA Multicultural Coalition

“The CMMC”

What is REMHDCO?

- The Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition
- Formed in 2007
- Mental Health America (Mental Health Association) in California is our fiscal agent
What is REMHDCO Cont.

- Represent unserved, underserved, and inappropriately served racial and ethnic communities.
  - Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander, Native American, African American.
  - Non-English speaking, immigrant and refugee, Muslim communities
Purpose of the CMMC

- Primary Goal: To work toward the integration of cultural and linguistic competence into the public mental health system.

- To address a variety of mental health issues and provide state level recommendations on all of the MHSA components and related activities.

Purpose of the CMMC Cont.

- To bring forward diverse multicultural perspectives that have not been adequately represented in the mental health system or in previous efforts to obtain consumer and family member input

- To coordinate and support the work of the five Strategic Planning Workgroups (SPWVs)
Purpose of the CMMC Cont.

• Work together with the Facilitator/Writer to produce a comprehensive Strategic Plan to identify new approaches toward the reduction of disparities.

• The Strategic Plan will be the basis for the PEI Statewide Project on Reducing Disparities!

Purpose of the CMMC Cont.

• To provide input to the [DMH] and Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) regarding mental health policies, programs, and services related to the MHSA.
Formation of the CMMC

- REMHDCO did not become the CMMC
- Transition Team put the CMMC together
- Recruitment completed in January 2011
- First CMMC meeting March 28, 2011

Who Are the Members?

- There are seats for 30 members total
- 25 members come from:
  - Community based organizations
  - Providers working with underserved pop.
  - Community leaders from diverse communities including representation across the lifespan
Who are the Members Cont.

- (25 members)
  - Consumers and family members with diverse racial, ethnic, linguistic, and cultural backgrounds.
  - Different geographic locations in California
  - Systems other than mental health (e.g. education, corrections, child welfare, social services, criminal and juvenile justice, etc.)

Who are the Members Cont.

- Inclusion of ethnic and racial communities in addition to the five population groups targeted by the SPWs that are cross or multi-ethnic

- Faith-based groups, immigrant and refugee communities, Arab or Middle Eastern communities, Eastern European communities, deaf and hard of hearing
Who are the Members Cont.

- 5 seats reserved for Emerging Leaders
  - Also from racial, ethnic and cultural underserved communities
  - To be mentored by the CMMC
  - Will develop their leadership skills and experience in order to be more effective in representing and advocating in the mental health and other systems

The CMMC Meetings

- Quarterly meetings open to the public
- The CMMC has 5 Committees
  - The Administration Committee
  - The Strategic Plan Committee
  - The MHSA Assessment and Recommendations Committee (MAC)
  - The Emerging Leaders Mentorship Committee
  - Public Affairs Committee
What has the CMMC Done?

• Organizing itself and elected Co-Chairs

• Organized review of each of the SPW population reports as they were released

• 2 “State of the State” reports, 3 special reports

• Served as an example of “transformation” regarding operations, decision-making.

Most Significant Actions

• In 2012, after open discussion, collectively developed positions regarding that year’s most important policy proposals regarding MHSA and reducing disparities
  ◦ Transfer of Office of Multicultural Services
  ◦ Administration of the $60 million set aside for the CRDP (Office of Health Equity)
Most Significant Actions Cont.

- Will conduct both an individual member and collective review of the draft Strategic Plan upon its release.

- Will begin to have meetings of its Public Affairs Committee in order to take policy positions in a more timely way.

- Will have a reception after the MHSOAC meeting in Long Beach on Sept. 26th.

For More Information

- REMHDCO’s website has a large section devoted to the CMMC: www.remhdco.org

- Website of the Office of Health Equity under the State Department of Public Health: http://www.cdph.ca.gov/PROGRAMS/Pages/OHEMain.aspx
For More Information Cont.

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- The CMMC looks forward to more collaboration with the MHSOAC!