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**AGENDA ITEM: California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP) Update**

**ENCLOSURES:** • None

**OTHER MATERIAL RELATED TO ITEM:**

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**Issue:**

**California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP) Update:**

Kathleen Billingsley, Chief Deputy of Program and Policy, California Department of Public Health, will provide an update on the status of the CRDP and the Strategic Plan.

**Background:**

The former Department of Mental Health (DMH), in partnership with the Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC), and in coordination with the California Mental Health Directors Association (CMHDA) and the California Mental Health Planning Council (CMHPC), called for a key statewide policy initiative as a means to improve access, quality of care, and increase positive outcomes for racial, ethnic and cultural communities that were historically underserved in California.

In 2009, DMH launched a statewide Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) effort utilizing Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) state administrative funding. The project, entitled the California Reducing Disparities Project, currently utilizes \$1.5 million in annual MHSA state administrative funding to support Phase I of the project, which is to develop a Strategic Plan.

DMH funded five entities representing targeted populations to develop Strategic Planning Workgroups (SPWs) to identify population-focused, culturally competent recommendations to improve access and quality of care for those not served and underserved racial, ethnic and multicultural communities. The five target populations and established SPWs for these activities focus on the groups that demonstrate historic disparities in access to mental health services:

- African Americans
- Asian/Pacific Islanders
- Latinos
- Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Questioning (LGBTQ)
- Native Americans

Each of these five SPWs has developed specific Reducing Disparities Population Reports (RDPR). The final RDPRs contain an inventory of community-defined strength based promising practices, models, and/or other resources. At the beginning of December 2012, the five SPW's completed their population reports.

The Commission has received regular updates on the progress of the CRDP. In September 2011, Sean Tracy, Acting Deputy Director, Office of Community Services, Department of Mental Health, provided the Commission with a PowerPoint Presentation on the status of the five population reports. In 2012, Kimberly Knifong, Office of Health Equity (OHE), presented a CRDP update to the MHSOAC Cultural and Linguistic Competence Committee, and at the April 4, 2013 MHSOAC Services Committee meeting, Marina Augusto, Acting Deputy Director, OHE, provided the committee with a status update on the status of the strategic plan. The next of these updates will be presented at today's Commission meeting.