

**MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION (MHSOAC)
Cultural and Linguistic Competence Committee
August 17, 2011
1500 Capitol Mall
Hearing Room 72.167
Sacramento, CA 95814
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

Committee Members Present:

Richard Van Horn, Chair
Rocco Cheng
Stacie Hiramoto
Gwen Wilson
Will Rhett-Mariscal
Gwen Slattery
Amber Burkan
Raja Mitry
Viviana Criado
Delphine Brody
Kamila Baker

Staff :

Sheri Gauger
Filomena Yeroshek
Kevin Hoffman
Jose Oseguera
Peter Best

Others Attendees:

Corrina Rhett
Cielo Avaalos
Abby Lubowe
Shayn Anderson
Elizabeth Harris
Kathleen Derby
Carmen Diaz
Ruth Tiscareno
Marina Augusto
Kimberly Knifong
Richard Krzyzanowski

Participated via phone

Jo Ann Johnson

Meeting called to order at 8:02 AM

Chair requested that committee members that were present review the June 14, 2011 meeting minutes until enough members arrived and a quorum could be reached.

Welcome/Introductions

- After a quorum was established, the chair asked for introductions
- Committee and public members introduced themselves

Tab 1 Review and Approve Minutes of February 16, 2011

The June 14, 2011 minutes were presented for committee approval.

The minutes were approved by consensus.

**Tab 2 CLCC/CFLC Community Forum Workgroup – Update on San Francisco County/
Bay Area Community Forum Planning Efforts**

The following are discussion highlights:

- Staff provided an overview of the San Francisco County Forum planning effort and informed the membership that a flyer and invitation letter had been distributed to the surrounding counties. Both of these documents have been submitted to DMH for translation.

- The committee asked to view the Community Forum Goals and questions
- A workgroup member stated that the workgroup already reviewed the questions; however, they are still too long and the spacing is close together

Following modifications were suggested:

- Page 3, question Number 2 - would like more ethnic examples or add the words “ethnic”, “ethnicity” or “country of origin”
- Page 5, question Number 8 – insert “race-ethnicity” or “race-ethnicity and culture”
- Page 7 - identify what the country of origin is within the race/ethnicity categories
- Page 7 – include age ranges or age groups, and a client/family category
- Move the race/ethnicity and demographic information gathering page to the front of the questionnaire

Action: MHSOAC staff will review the suggested changes and revise the questionnaire

Tab 3 Update from CLCC Cultural Competency Orientation Workgroup Regarding upcoming Orientation

The Workgroup Chair provided a progress overview regarding the planning efforts for the Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards presentation to the MHSOAC Commissioner on November 17, 2011 and staff on November 18, 2011.

The following are the discussion highlights and comments:

- The draft learning objectives, outputs and activities document was presented for review
- A comment was made that learning objectives are a priority, because they will lead to the outputs
- A workgroup member stated that her comments had been omitted from the dialogue
- The Workgroup Chair stated that her comments were incorporated into the draft learning objective document
- A comment was made to add “business case” to learning objective Number 1
- A suggestion was made that the Workgroup and Committee need to review the CLAS Standards
- An observation was made that the current CLAS Standards are being revised
- Question: Does anyone know when the revisions will occur?
- Question: Which standards are in laws and which ones are being recommended for use in the presentation?

- The workgroup Chair will distribute the revised version when it becomes available
- An observation was made that the County Ethnic Service Managers should have the updated CLAS Standards
- A suggestion was made that the abbreviated CLAS version be read and could be used to help identify pertinent standards with concrete examples
- Question: Who will provide the presentation?
- The presenter should be able to express his/her thoughts on what CLAS Standards means so Commissioners and staff can understand the ramifications
- The presenter should also provide concrete examples regarding the application of CLAS Standards
- The Office of Multicultural Services has contacted Dr. Francis Lu and is awaiting his acceptance
- A observation was made that the goals of the presentation should be to educate and advise Commissioners and staff
- The presentation should be an interactive exercise
- A suggestion was made that the CLAS presentation should explain how policies outside of mental health field impact the entire mental system
- A workgroup member stated that a draft evaluation form is being developed to measure whether the objectives of the presentation were accomplished
- A suggestion was made that the Commission educate counties on the use of CLAS Standards as a guide in service delivery
- A comment was made that Cultural Competency Plans (CCP) be based on CLAS Standards
- A request was made to ask DMH to provide a list of CCP's submitted and approved. The information would also include the number of counties that asked for and received extensions.
- A suggestion was made that the Commission could use the CLAS Standards in their decision making activities
- A request was made that the CLAS presentation include families and children

Action: The membership will email additional input regarding the CLAS orientation to committee staff person. This information will be reviewed at the workgroup meeting.

Tab 4 View and Discuss Strengths-Based Solutions Video

This video was to be presented to the CLCC last year, but for various reasons, this did not occur. The video "A Gardener's Tale" was viewed by all in attendance. After the video ended, the following questions and comments were discussed: Who are the gardeners and who is the rocky

soil? In some counties, there are “good-ole-boy” networks that control the resources. Communities of color are sometimes in the rocky soil. The soil needs to be enriched at the county level and more oversight on how resources are expended needs to occur.

The following are the discussion highlights:

- The membership really enjoyed the video
- A comment was made that funding disparities exist with CBO’s and programs that serve the homeless, aged and HIV recipients. These programs have lost funding and the following question was asked: “Are we buying into this biological determinacy?”
- A comment was made that this was a very provocative film, and it could potentially make many people uncomfortable. However, we need to address injustices with underserved communities. Unfortunately, if someone voices their opinion on these injustices, the person is viewed as being negative and conspiracy oriented.
- We need to address the unmet need and do something about it. We need to look at the soil and the gardener – change is needed.
- There is power in the voice that needs to be honored and acknowledged – stories are sometimes leaked to the press and then change occurs.
- Question: What are we going to do as a committee?

Action: Membership will complete the questionnaire on the video which was distributed at the meeting and submit their responses to MHSOAC staff to be included in the next meeting packet for discussion

Tab 5 Discuss and Plan the Update to the Commission Regarding Collaborative Efforts Focused on Reducing Disparities

Marina Augusto, Chief, Office of Multicultural Services, thanked everyone for showing the “Gardener’s Tale” video. She thought the video was very insightful. Ms. Augusto and Kimberly Knifong presented a PowerPoint presentation/update on the California Reducing Disparities Project (CDRP).

The following are the presentation highlights:

- The CDRP goals are to highlight disparities and educate the public with input from the community on what it wants
- There are seven CDRP contracts funded with the \$1.5 million annual allocation
- All contracts were signed in March of 2010
- There are five Strategic Planning Workgroups (SPW): Latino, LGBTQ, African American, Native American and Asian/Pacific Islander
- The sixth contract is the CDRP facilitator and the writer is Ruben Cantor

- The seventh and final contract is the Mental Health Association of California/Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition (REMHDCO), who is responsible for convening this CA Multicultural coalition.
- The DMH Website contains links to information regarding the various SPW's
- A comment was made that counties must conduct a cultural competency assessment, which serves as the baseline.

Action: OMS will make a CDRP presentation at the September 22, 2011 Commission Meeting

Tab 6 Review and Discuss the Cultural Competency Plan Requirements Modifications

Kimberly Knifong, OMS, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the current cultural competence plan requirements and the modifications made to accommodate small counties.

The following are the discussion highlights:

- A request was made that DMH provide a list Cultural Competence Plans (CCP) approved and submitted including the number of counties that asked for and received extensions of time to submit their CCP

Future Agenda Items

- Update on CLAS Presentation from CLCC Workgroup
- OMS to provide information on CCP
- Complete questionnaire and discuss the Institutional Racism and White Privilege Video
- Discussion regarding the Cultural Competency Plan Requirements
- Discussion regarding possible closure of DMH's Office of Multi-Cultural Services

General Public Comment

- A suggestion was made that the revised CLAS Standards should be made available to the CLCC
- Question: Could more notice be provided before Commission meetings occur?

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted by

Peter W. Best, Staff Mental Health Specialist