

## California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP) Activity Outcomes September 2011

### **Latino Strategic Planning Workgroup (SPW)**

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Dr. Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola of UC Davis Center for Reducing Health Disparities is the project lead. The SPW established a statewide "Concilio" (steering committee) made up of 22 key Latino community leaders from each of their four identified regions (Bay Area, Central Valley, Superior region, and Southern California which included Los Angeles).

They have held 13 community forums across the state. Each forum had between 14 and 69 participants, which included small groups to discuss topics about increasing treatment participation, barriers to care, and recommendations for new programs. Over 550 participants from 45 counties attended these forums in both rural and urban settings; some of these forums were specifically targeted for Latino LGBTQ, providers as well as high school and college students.

The SPW has also leveraged opportunities for data collection, including working with the LGBTQ SPW and the Ethnic Service Managers to promote and recruit participants to attend the forums.

They are currently working on their data analysis from which they will be able to provide a list of successful programs and their characteristics that were identified by the Latino community participants. The SPW is currently in the process of going back to the communities where they held each forum to allow participants to comment on the summarized data and provide recommendations this project should put forth.

### **LGBTQ Strategic Planning Workgroup**

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Daniel Gould is the project lead for the LGBTQ SPW at Equality California Institute (EQCAI) where he directs the California LGBT Health and Human Services Network. EQCAI is the lead organization in partnership with Mental Health America of Northern California. Poshie Mikalson, project lead from Mental Health America of Northern California, reported the 16 member SPW has been concerned with the invisibility of LGBTQ issues in the public mental health system. The project launched with a series of 12 community dialogue meetings, which brought together 450 people across the state. In addition to a diverse SPW membership, 14 Advisory Groups provide input for the project (including African American, Asian & Pacific Islander, Bisexual/Pansexual/Fluid, County Staff, Latino, Native American, Older Adults, School-Based, Rural, Youth, and Transition Aged Youth). They are conducting two online surveys, one for community members (currently online) and one for providers with a goal of collecting 2,500 responses. Some of the challenges include outreach and maintaining engagement with a diverse range of people within LGBTQ communities, including multicultural communities that have diverse cultural and linguistic ways of understanding sexual minority status. Community feedback at this point in the project identifies issues around minority stress compounded by being LGBTQ as a significant factor in mental health.

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**African American Strategic Planning Workgroup**

Dr. V. Diane Woods is the project lead from African American Health Institute of San Bernardino County. **SPW Structure:** The SPW has 53 members, which includes self-identified people of African heritage that are consumers, clients, client family members, stakeholders, mental health providers, psychiatrist, psychologists, sociologists, anthropologists, marriage and family therapists, social workers, public health professionals, nurses, faith and community-based organizations, in addition to representation of youth, older adults, LGBTQI individuals, Continental Africans, African immigrants, Afro-Caribbean, and of course African Americans. The SPW embraced a cultural tradition of "gathering all the people together" (called *Harambee*) to work on the CRDP using community-based participatory research methods for information and data collection. To ensure regional input and representation, the SPW has five community-based consultants from each California region (Northern, Southern, Central, Inland Empire, Los Angeles); 10 professional subject matter experts; and 15 diverse advisors including persons interested in mental health issues, a county mental health director, a Cultural Competence/Ethnic Services Manager, other county staff, providers, and NAMI members.

**SPW Outcomes:** To date, the SPW has engaged a diverse group of community residents and persons of interest by conducting 35 regional focus groups with 260 participants; administered 150 consumer, client, and client family member surveys; conducted 45 regional in-depth interviews; completed 65 telephone interviews with Cultural Competence/Ethnic Services Managers, community-based organizational leaders, and mental health providers; and obtained information from 89 participants in small group discussions, resulting in the development of 5 regional case studies, a statewide directory of African American Mental Health Providers by regions, and a compendium of mental health scholarly work (including tailored prevention and early intervention research studies with positive outcomes) by Black professionals. Project participants are from 80 different cities in California and from 29 different counties. In September 2011, the draft CRDP Population Report will be posted for a 30-day Public Review period, during that same timeframe the SPW will conduct 6 regional public forums (for content validation) to be scheduled in October. The final Population Report will consist of 5 parts: a comprehensive report (250 pages), a separate executive summary (6 pages), a separate community public policy brief (2 pages), a separate directory of mental health providers (30 pages), and online reference materials. SPW members have participated in various meetings, summits, and conferences throughout the state, at the White House in Washington, DC, and nationally making presentations and conducting workshops on working with the Black population using a population-based public health approach to reducing disparities in mental health.

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### **Native American Strategic Planning Workgroup**

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Kurt Schweigman, MPH (Lakota tribe), is the project lead from the Native American Health Center of Oakland. Their project is titled Native Vision. Their workgroup consists of 8 Native American professionals with extensive knowledge on mental health practices within tribal and urban American Indian communities. The SPW has conducted 9 focus groups across the state with over 282 participants. They are currently working on the fifth draft of their population report. The SPW has attended 3 CMHDA Ethnic Services Managers meetings in-person (2 in Sacramento and 1 in LA area). Workgroup member, Janet King (Lumbee tribe), was the keynote speaker at the recent Northern Region Cultural Competency Summit that took place in San Jose. The SPW will be presenting at the Southern Region Cultural Competency Summit in Ontario, November 2-3, 2011. Some of the initial findings include the need to focus on cultural/traditional practices, socio-economic issues and the call for cultural competency of non-Native American entities. Their final report will include a "quick reference" catalog of PEI community-defined promising practices.

### **Asian Pacific Islander Strategic Planning Workgroup**

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Dr. Rocco Cheng is the project lead from Pacific Clinics. The Steering Committee is made up of the Project Director and 5 regional leads (Sacramento, Bay Area, Central Valley, Los Angeles, and San Diego).

The 55 member SPW has completed the following activities: conducted 4 statewide meetings, held 25 regional meetings (5 meetings in each of the five regions), hosted 23 focus groups with 198 participants, held two community forums with 150 participants, and conducts regular updates with the MHSOAC CLCC. The SPW regularly invites MHSOAC Commissioners and Assembly members and has hosted the Chair of the President's Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Daphne Kwok.

The SPW has invited researchers from UC Berkeley and UC Davis to present at statewide meetings (UC Berkeley, UC Davis), maintains contact with SAMHSA regarding the update of CRDP-API SPW activities and findings, presented at the Northern Region Cultural Competency Summit and plans to present at the Southern Region Cultural Competency Summit in November 2011, collaborates with national organizations, such as, the National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association (NAAPIMHA) on health disparities and Affordable Care Act (ACA), participated in the SAMHSA Policy Summit and subsequent activities, and plans to coordinate an API CRDP project conference on February 1, 2012, at the California Endowment in Los Angeles (projected attendance: 200). Dr. Cheng has been selected as the Region 9 Advisory Group member for the DHHS' Office of Minority Health to work on health disparity issues.

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**The Facilitator/Writer**

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Ruben Cantu is the project lead from the California Pan-Ethnic Health Network. Over the first contract year he has met with the strategic planning workgroups and the CA MHSA Multicultural Coalition individually and all together many times. There have been four All Contractors' Meetings with the next scheduled in November, 2011.

Outlines/drafts of the population reports are being reviewed with feedback and recommendations made to each SPW. The Facilitator/Writer also keeps regular attendance and communication with the CA MHSA Multicultural Coalition Strategic Plan Committee.

**The CA MHSA Multicultural Coalition (CMMC)**

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Stacie Hiramoto, from Mental Health Association, Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition (REMHDCO), is the lead responsible for convening the CMMC. They have met three times with the next full membership meeting scheduled for September 28, 2011.

To work on deliverables (review of Reducing Disparities Population Reports; State of the State Reports; Special Reports; Emerging Leaders Mentoring, etc.), the CMMC have convened four committees: Emerging Leaders, Administration, MHSA Assessment, and Strategic Planning. Each committee has met multiple times and reports out at the full CMMC meetings.