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# AGENDA ITEM 3A

## Presentation

November 20, 2014 Commission Meeting

**Cultural and Linguistic Competency Committee:  
African-American Faith-Based presentation**

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**Summary:** The purpose of this presentation is to provide the Commission with an understanding of the significant role Faith and Spirituality plays as a key mental wellness tool for those in the African American Community. Ms. Crowder and the other presenters will share the approach she developed in Alameda County and her work with statewide cultural brokers, those with personal lived experience and Faith Leaders to promote; Mental Health Friendly Communities (MHFC). MHFC trains Faith Leaders to better understand mental health challenges as well as supporting them as first responders. This community defined culturally responsive and fully inclusive toolkit also trains mental health providers to better understand the significant historical connection African Americans have with their Faith.

**Presenters:**

Gigi Crowder, LE, Ethnic Services Manager,  
Alameda County Behavioral Health

Rev. Dr. Oscar Wright, Chief Executive Officer,  
United Advocates for Children

Cassandra Jennings, Office of Mayor Kevin Johnson

**Enclosures:** None

**Handout:** A PowerPoint will be provided at the meeting

**Recommended Action:** None

**Motion:** None

