

**\_\_\_ ACTION REQUIRED:****DATE OF MEETING: 11/2/15****PREPARED BY: Desormeaux****DATE MATERIAL  
PREPARED: 10/26/15**

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**AGENDA ITEM: Update on California Reducing Disparities Phase II Projects****ENCLOSURES:****OTHER MATERIAL RELATED TO ITEM:**

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**Agenda Item 2:**

In response to former U.S. Surgeon General David Snatcher's call for national action to reduce mental health disparities, the former Department of Mental Health (DMH), with support from the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC), the California Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA), and the California Mental Health Planning Council (CMHPC), created a statewide policy initiative to identify solutions for historically unserved, underserved, and inappropriately served communities. In 2009, the former DMH launched a statewide Prevention and Early Intervention effort, the California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP), which focused on five populations:

- African Americans
- Asians and Pacific Islanders (API)
- Latinos
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning (LGBTQ)
- Native Americans

Five organizations were funded to develop population-specific Strategic Planning Workgroups (SPWs) to identify new service delivery approaches defined by multicultural communities for multicultural communities using community-defined evidence to improve outcomes and reduce disparities. The California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN) collaborated with the SPW's to develop a Strategic Plan to identify culturally appropriate strategies to improve access to services, quality of care, and mental health outcomes for the five CRDP target populations.

The focus of Phase II will be on demonstrating the effectiveness of community-defined evidence in reducing mental health disparities. CRDP Phase II is a multi-component program, funding selected approaches across the five CRDP-targeted populations with strong evaluation, technical assistance, and infrastructure support components.

After successful completion of this multiyear investment in community-defined evidence, California will be in a position to better serve these communities and to provide the state, and the nation, a model to replicate the new strategies, approaches, and knowledge.

