

**CALIFORNIA MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL
CULTURAL COMPETENCE COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

June 15, 2010

**Hilton Oakland Airport
One Hegenberger Road
Oakland, CA 94621**

Committee Members Present

Adrienne Cedro-Hament
Joe Mortz
Stacie Hiramoto
George Fry
Marissa Lee
Monica Wilson

Jennie Montoya
Rachel Guerrero
Walter Shwe
Lin Benjamin
Edward Walker

Others in Attendance

Darien DeLu
Kathleen Derby
Sophie Cabrera

John Ryan
Liza Huet
Steve Leoni

Staff Present

Ann Arneill-Py, PhD
Karen Hudson

Welcome and Introductions

Noting that a quorum was present, Adrienne Cedro-Hament, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. The chair introduced herself followed by introductions of the Cultural Competence Committee members and guests in attendance.

Adrienne announced that Rachel Guerrero will be retiring from State service on June 30, 2010. Adrienne thanked Rachel for being a pioneer in the area of Cultural Competence. Several members of the Cultural Competence Committee and guests individually expressed their thanks and appreciation for all Rachel has done in advocating for cultural competence in the mental health system. Marino Augusto will serve as acting Chief of the Office of Multicultural Services (OMS) until a permanent replacement is hired.

Planning Council Member Issue Requests

No issue requests were submitted.

Cultural Competence Requirements

Adrienne provided a brief explanation as to the intent of this agenda item. The committee has been discussing the reasons why cultural competence at the county level has proven to be difficult for so many counties. The committee hopes to identify barriers and problem solve. Rachel Guerrero will provide the history and overview of cultural competence efforts within the DMH, followed by a roundtable discussion with former mental health directors and committee members.

Rachel provided a handout (attached) and an overview of the purpose and history of the cultural competence efforts at the Federal and State level. Rachel reminded the committee that each county is unique and therefore the cultural competence needs, issues and barriers differ greatly. The revised Cultural Competence Plan Requirements (CCPR) 2010 are due 7/28/2010. This revised CCPR (2010) works toward the development of the most culturally and linguistically competent programs and services to meet the needs of California's diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural communities in the mental health system of care. These Plans will be reviewed by staff of the OMS and 22 contracted consultants. Rachel stated that she has always marketed the Cultural Competency Plans as a "quality of care issue" not just about race and ethnicity.

Ed Walker and John Ryan joined the committee in discussing the history and current status of cultural competence in the mental health system. The following facts and issues were discussed;

- Realignment (1992) mandated a partnership between the DMH and counties to work collaboratively
- Lanterman Petrie-Short (LPS) gave due process to the civil commitment process
- Increase in the use of IMD's after deinstitutionalization
- Managed Care targeted race but not culture or language issues
- Lack of professionals in the mental health system who reflect the cultural diversity of their communities
- DMH should have developed their Cultural Competence Plans first to demonstrate leadership prior to requiring the counties to submit their plans
- Mental health clinics #1 priority is to provide clinically competent treatment and services, not cultural competency
- Cultural Competency Plan Requirements are too burdensome and often considered just one more administrative requirement to complete with dwindling resources
- Institutional racism exists within our mental health system

Evaluation of Meeting/Future Agendas

California Mental Health Planning Council
Cultural Competence Committee
June 15, 2010

Everyone appreciated the candid discussion and dialog. The committee recommended the next meeting include a presentation from a local county on their efforts to reduce disparities and their cultural competency activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Hudson
Staff Mental Health Specialist