

Summary

Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Cultural Competency Meeting

January 18, 2018
10:45am

Mental Health Facility
1137 B Street, Merced

Present:

Griselda Vazquez, Irvin Guzman Gutierrez, Toni Mittnacht, Sandra Sandoval, Ashely Anthony, Rhonda Prater, Nancy Reding, Gloria Nunn, Rebeca Wood, Fernando Granados, Anna Santos, Donna Dennerlein, Janet Zamudio, Lorena Ewing

Presentation and Discussion:

All Members

I. Check-in/Conocimiento

The group did self-introductions, stating names and agencies.

II. Approval of Minutes

The approval of minutes for November 21, 2017, was motioned/seconded (Nancy Reding/Gloria Nunn) and carried.

III. Cultural Competence Plan Update

Sharon Jones, MHSA Coordinator for BHRS, informed the group that the Cultural Competency Plan is complete and posted on the Merced County website. Sharon shared that the State has not updated the Cultural Competence guidelines since 2010. Recently the MHSA Coordinators' Committee emailed the Department of Health Care Services regarding guidelines and how to proceed forward. The response was to follow the 2010 guidelines until they are updated and changed. At BHRS, the Cultural Competence Plan is updated every Fall. Sharon briefly covered what cultural competency encompasses such as lifelong learning and humility.

IV. Discussion on strategies to improve cultural competence

Sharon Jones asked the council to think of strategies to improve cultural competence. She reviewed the current strategies that improve cultural competence such as multicultural trainings, outreach and engagement, etc. Attendee stated that in the Hmong community individuals are based on their roles so she would like to see a family program partnered with Merced Lao Family. Attendee discussed the gender roles within the Hmong community. She stated that females are pushed to be submissive, not valuable to the family. She is seeking out equality. She would like to see a Stigma booth at the Hmong New Year. Nancy Reding stated that there are funds set aside specifically for the Hmong Community within the Three-Year plan; she suggested reviewing the plan to see where the funding will be utilized. Sharon asked the group what other strategies should be used for outreach and engagement going into 2018. Griselda Vazquez of Livingston Community Health shared that a collaboration has formed with TIP. Griselda stated that Anna Santos of TIP has been sharing pertaining to Aspirant's services at Livingston Community Health's presentations in Delhi. Griselda gave a brief overview of their partnership. Griselda stated that she is open to any program to present, interpreters are available because all presentations need to be done in Spanish. Nancy Reding stated that it would be nice to have a resource guide; Sharon stated that on the County website all MHSA program brochures are available. Nancy suggested also adding support groups. Donna Dennerlein from Turning Point, stated that Turning Point currently has a cultural competence support group. She gave a brief overview of what the support group offers. The group discussed the importance of community art being displayed, featuring artists within the different communities. Attendee informed the group that there are currently two Hmong channels shown locally and suggested providing an informative program. Attendee stated that she would be willing to accompany Sharon Jones to visit the Hmong channels. Attendee asked if there was an established Facebook page for BHRS; Sharon stated not at this time. Sharon thanked the group for the recommended strategies and explained that the reason why this is an agenda item is to build capacity. Sharon also shared that in the Prevention and Early Intervention evaluation report,

which was recently completed, internal collaboration needs to be better developed and tracked. Fernando Granados of Sierra Vista stated that what all programs can do that is within their reach is to ensure that programs have welcoming environments and offices. He also stated that it is important to have something within the offices that the clients can identify with. He also stated the Sierra Vista also looks at the recruitment of diversity among the staff. Anna Santos asked if there has been further discussions in regards to outreach and engagement with the Middle Eastern Community of Livingston. Sharon Jones stated there has been no forward movement. Sharon stated that it usually starts with reviewing the population demographics, the area, the need; collecting data before moving forward and presenting it. Lorena Ewing of Healthy House stated that Healthy House has data. The group discussed the county's demographic count and the Census process. The group discussed the Homeless Count and many voiced their concern regarding the procedure. The group discussed the mistreatment of the local Homeless population and how to better assist them. Sharon discussed No Place Like Home and how currently there is no movement. Nancy Reding asked Sharon to share collected Middle Eastern population information with the group when available. Griselda Vazquez shared that a large Sikh festival/parade is scheduled in the month of March. Griselda stated that the organizer of the festival/parade extended an invitation of participation. Sharon asked for the contact information of the organizer. Attendee stated that it is possible to meet with clan leaders of the Hmong community. Attendee stated that parades are another possible opportunity for outreach and engagement.

V. Workshops to improve learning on Culturally Specific Groups

Sharon Jones would like to see workshops offered during scheduled Cultural Competency meeting so that members can educate and learn about various cultures within the community. Sharon asked the group to create a list with various cultural topics to promote lifelong learning such as the TAY, LGBTQ, and Elder cultures. She would prefer a PowerPoint and a handout for reference. Sharon would like to see workshop presentations be a total of 15 minutes with an additional 10 minutes for wrap up and questions. Attendee shared her lived experiences and how she become an advocate and activist. Nancy Reding reported that she is connected to the Muslim community and offered to reach out to the Women's Association. Community member discussed various misconceptions associated to the Muslim culture. Community member asked if there is any outreach that is specifically for the children/TAY population. Community member asked if assistance is possible for a youth who wants to receive services yet parents do not acknowledge or refuse mental health issues. Sharon shared that as young as 12 years old, a child can consent if mature.

VI. Culturally Specific Outreach Events and Initiatives

Sharon discussed the Ending the Stigma initiative, development of the suicide prevention initiative and mandatory trainings with the group. Nancy Reding stated that she would like to see a suicide prevention training be presented to the community. Sharon stated that the goal is create a safety net, a suicide safer community. For the purpose of the suicide initiative, Sharon is recommending getting all BHRS clinical staff trained then branching out to the local schools and then family members. Fernando Granados shared with the group that the expansion of iMatter should help at the high school level; the expansion includes bullying, mental health and sexual orientation information. Fernando Granados also shared that CSU Stanislaus MSW program will offering a Transcend/Transverse conference on Friday May 4th and Saturday May 5th, 2018 in Turlock. Friday's conference date is geared towards professionals and Saturday's date will be to educate the community. Nancy Reding asked for information and flyers; Fernando stated that printed information is not currently available. Attendee suggested a workshop on social responsibility. Sharon stated that she may have her staff develop a survey to be sent out to all members pertaining to culturally responsive workshops. Attendee would like to see an Ending the Stigma film be created, much like NAMI's In Your Own Voice. Nancy Reding asked who sets up the initiatives, Sharon explained the process in detail to the group.

VII. Creating Philosophy of Lifelong learning and inclusion

Sharon Jones asked the group to begin thinking about creating a philosophy of lifelong learning and inclusion for individuals.

VIII. Program Reports

Anna Santos stated that the collaboration between Livingston Health Clinic and TIP was interesting due to working with parents opposed to TAY; it was a success. Fernando Granados of Sierra Vista reported that Sierra Vista has recently expanded school services to the Los Banos area with a contract with Los Banos School District; there will be a clinician

providing services. Griselda Vazquez informed the group of the large need within the Delhi Unified School District and the Delhi community. Griselda extended an invitation to all to share information about their programs with the Delhi community during Livingston Health Clinic scheduled parent groups. Sharon Jones stated that she is willing to facilitate a dialog in the Delhi community. Fernando Granados stated that Sierra Vista could go out to Delhi to assist 0-5 children. Sharon suggested adding an agenda item specifically for linkages between programs.

IX. Announcements

Nancy Reding, community member, shared that on February 19, 2018 from 6pm to 9pm, Rev. Edward Pinkly, former political prisoner, will be speaking at Merced's Multicultural Art Center per the request of Journey for Justice.

X. Possibilities and Success Stories

XI. Next Steps

Cultural Competency Plan to be sent out to all members. Add agenda item – Discussion on Linkages for future agendas

XII. Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 11:55am.