

Summary

Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Cultural Competency Meeting

March 15, 2018
10:45am

Mental Health Facility
1137 B Street, Merced

Present:

Ricky Pal, Nancy Reding, Donna Dennerlein, Irvin Guzman Gutierrez, Sharon Jones, Anna Santos, Fernando Granados, Laura Ruell, Andrea Tovar, Maria Bautista, Rebeca Wood

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 March 15, 2018, was motioned/seconded (Fernando Granados/Nancy Reding) and carried.

III. Discussion on Cultural Competence goals

Sharon Jones, MHSA Coordinator for BHRS, asked all to think of goals that will guide the committee. Attendee would like awareness to be noted as a goal. Nancy Reding, Community Member, would like to see this committee identify unserved and not served populations. She would also like to see what this committee can do to change that. Nancy would like to see outreach as a goal; specifically informing individuals that this particular committee exists. Attendee suggested language trainings. Sharon Jones informed the group that BHRS is currently in the early stages of arranging for Spanish-Speaking Interpreters training through United Way. The group discussed the guidelines for the training; currently for BHRS employees and contract providers. Nancy Reding inquired about the current established goals of the committee. Sharon Jones stated that the goals are to be updated later this year but would like to begin collecting feedback. Sharon Jones reviewed the established goals for Cultural Competence with the group. Sharon informed the group that a presentation will be given to BHR Leadership during the Fall of this year to report findings as they relate to Cultural Competency. Anna Santos of TIP, asked what would be the next steps after needs/goals have been identified. Sharon stated that once the needs are identified, the next steps will be to pair up the needs with activities that this committee recommendations. This information will be presented in a PowerPoint to BHRS Leadership on how to move forward. Nancy Reding asked if there was a measurement tool within this committee to see how effective the established goals are or if they are achievable. Sharon stated that currently there is no measurement tool but did ask for recommendations from the group. Sharon stated that a possibility would be that everyone does an assessment of themselves. Maria Bautista of Caring Kids asked who gets to view demographic information collected; Sharon stated that it is public information in a form of a service map. Fernando Granados asked if the map could be presented to this committee. The group would like to review both the MHSA and BHRS demographic maps. Fernando Granados would like to have the penetration rates for all programs present in this committee as well.

IV. Commitment to Cultural Competence

The group discussed the overall commitment to cultural competency. Sharon Jones stated that it sounds like the group is committed to identifying the key individuals who are receiving services that are needed. Fernando Granados stated that he feels that the group is able to identify the needs of the community but sometimes the group is unaware of what is actually being provided. He suggested program presentation for this committee; the presentations should include how the programs are being culturally responsive to the community. Maria Bautista shared her experience and observations during the Effective Black Parenting week-long training with the group. Nancy Reding stated that she was concerned with the accuracy

of the Three-Year Plan's demographics. The group discussed cultural identifiers and how different cultures want to be identified.

V. Service Needs

Sharon Jones stated that the data maps will need to be reviewed so that the group can see what is actually occurring within the community; also a review of available services and quarterly reports.

VI. Client and Family member needs

Sharon Jones asked the group to think of client and family member needs. Attendee stated that a suggestion was made for Parenting classes to be offered within the Merced Wellness Center. Irvin Guzman Gutierrez suggested Family Support Workers much like Parent Partner for BHRS. Laura Ruell of Aspiranet gave the group a brief description of the Parent Partners and family-orientated activities provided by Aspiranet. Fernando Granados suggested making the recommendation that BHRS develop a volunteer program to assist individuals who are currently receiving services. Nancy Reding discussed the need of support groups for both client and family members. Anna Santos asked the group if there were any TAY parenting courses available. The group discussed various client and family member needs, the various resources currently available and the communication barriers among family members.

VII. Discussion on Prevention and Early Intervention needs for diverse communities

Item tabled.

VIII. Program Reports and Updates

Rebeca Wood of BHRS announced that the Merced Wellness Center will be hosting two upcoming events, a St. Patrick's Day Celebration on March 16, 2018 from 11am to 1pm and the Cesar Chavez Celebration scheduled for March 30, 2018 from 11am to 1pm. Griselda Vazquez of Livingston Health Clinic announced that the 9th Annual Young Women's Conference is scheduled for Saturday, March 24, 2018 at the Livingston Middle School.

IX. Possibilities and Success Stories

Item tabled.

X. Next Steps

Cultural Competency goals to be sent out to all.

XI. Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 11: 53a.m.