

# Summary

## Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Cultural Competency Meeting

August 15, 2019

10:00am

Behavioral Health & Recovery Services Facility

301 East 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Merced

### Present:

Nancy Reding, Marilyn Mochel, Maria Orozco, Anna M Diaz, Anna Santos, Laura Ruell, Jessica Wheeler, Belle Vallador, Cynthia Roche, James Henderson, Adam Lane, Zac Coston, Ker Thao, Ursula Vasquez, Sandra Sandoval, Rhonda J. Prater, Jen Ramos, Sophia Ornelas, Candice McFadden, Caitlin Haygood, Sharon Jones, Griselda Vazquez, Andrea Tovar

### Presentation and Discussion:

*All Members*

#### I. Check-in/Conocimiento

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

#### II. Approval of Minutes

The approval of minutes for July 18, 2019, was motioned/seconded (Nancy Reding/Rhonda Prater) and carried.

#### III. MHSA Focus Groups Update

Sharon Jones asked if any programs were interested in hosting a focus group. Sharon Jones gave the committee an overview of the importance of providing numerous focus groups. Sharon Jones also encouraged trusted messenger interviews as well. A World Café will be scheduled once all focus group data has been compiled, more information to come.

#### IV. Commitment to Cultural Competence

Sharon Jones announced that she would like the committee to discuss their commitment to moving cultural competence forward. Sharon Jones shared her commitments to cultural competence. The group discussed identifying gaps, looking to bring workshops to rural areas, assisting with language barriers, decreasing stigma, being mindful of oppression, etc. Christopher Jensen, of BHRS, announced that All in for Health Coalition has developed a History of Oppression training that is available to all. Christopher Jensen also suggested that the Cultural Competency committee make a commitment to reviewing demographic data on a regular basis. Belle Vallador announced the upcoming Victim Services Cross Training Event: Abuse in Later Life: Cross-Training for Victim Service Providers scheduled for Wednesday, October 30, 2019, from 8:30am to 5:00pm at the Business Resource Center. Flyer were distributed to all members. Sharon Jones encouraged all to continue to think about their commitment to cultural competence.

#### V. Cultural Competence Plan Update

Sharon Jones announced that MHSA is in the process of preparing the Cultural Competence Plan Update. She also stated the goal is to present to draft to this committee for their feedback.

#### VI. Cultural Awareness-Community groups

Sharon Jones asked the committee if there are any community groups that are being overlooked. The committee discussed various communities such as the Jewish population, mobile communities, gangs, physical disabilities, Transgender community, Autism Spectrum, first generations, Native/Indigenous communities, survivors of domestic violence, etc.

**VII. Discussion on Culturally Specific Needs**

Sharon Jones asked the committee to discuss culturally specific needs within Merced County. The committee discussed support services/groups, local cultural healing practices, healing/emancipation circles, being knowledgeable about working with trauma survivors, immediate action towards community needs and intensive case management, etc. Sharon Jones announced that she is currently working on a State of California Planning Council data notebook that is requesting information pertaining to counties' trauma-informed approaches/care.

**VIII. Disparities to healthcare in our community**

Sharon Jones asked the committee to discuss the various disparities to healthcare within the community. The group discussed the lack of resources due to income, single-parent homes, transgender health care, acknowledging transgender, unauthorized individuals not seeking services due to fear, chronic sadness and suicidal thoughts of South East Asian populations within various school districts, lack of connection and follow-up in services, lack of diversity within the healthcare services, and lack of trust/sensitivity.

**IX. Program Reports and Updates**

Belle Vallador of Healthy House asked all to refer anyone within the Homeless community for housing assistance. Ursula, Merced LGBTQ+ Alliance, stated that a resource 'zine' (a brochure-like mini-magazine) is currently being compiled for LGBTQ+ youth and would like to include all programs from the committee.

**X. Possibilities and Success Stories**

Marilyn Mochel, of BHC and NAMI Merced, suggested culturally reflective artwork within service providers' facilities as a future agenda item. Griselda Vazquez announced that student ID cards now have the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline printed on them. This is the first year, all California students in junior high and high school are required to have the hotline printed on their ID cards.

**XI. Next Steps**

No next steps reported.

**XII. Adjourned**

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am.