



Cultural and Linguistic Competency Committee Teleconference Meeting Summary
Date: Thursday, March 11, 2021 | Time: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

MHSOAC
1325 J Street, Suite 1700
Sacramento, CA 95814

****DRAFT****

Committee Members:

Staff:

Other Attendees:

Mayra Alvarez, Chair Gladys Mitchell, Vice Chair Keyondria Bunch Nahla Kayali Estrella Amaro-Jeppesen Claire Buckley Veronica Chavez Eugene Durrah Luis Garcia Jim Gilmer Jonathan Lee Lee Lo Yolanda Randles Corinita Reyes Etsegenet Teodros Yia Xiong Richard Zaldivar	Kayla Landry Tom Orrock Norma Pate Sharmil Shah Filomena Yeroshek	Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola Herman DeBose Stacie Hiramoto Tracy Lacey Vattana Peong Kelechi Ubozoh
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Committee members absent: Senei Admasu (phonetic)

Welcome and Introductions

Commissioner Mayra Alvarez, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone. She asked everyone to introduce themselves. She reviewed the meeting protocols.

Tom Orrock, Chief of Stakeholder Engagement and Commission Grants, called the roll and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

Agenda Item 1: Discussion: CLCC Areas of Focus

Chair Alvarez stated the Committee will discuss specific areas of focus for 2021 which may include:

1. Providing input on the Commission's Racial Equity Action Plan and efforts to address inequities in internal processes and grant programs.
2. Identifying ways to document and communicate inequities in California's mental health system to inform policy and practice.
3. Identifying policy and practice reforms and exploring existing efforts and model programs to address inequities.

Chair Alvarez asked for feedback on the proposed areas of focus for 2021.

Committee Member Feedback

- Flesh out practical, tangible recommendations to zero in on what the areas of focus mean on the street.
- Investigate objectives and strategies to utilize to help the Committee dive deeper into the proposed areas of focus.
- Encourage the Commission to support the California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP) Phase II.
- Provide input on the Commission's Senate Bill (SB) 1004 Prevention and Early Intervention work around college versus non-college services.
- Concern about how to meet goals to advance racial equity with only four Committee meetings per year.
- Engage in an explicit conversation about what engagement looks like such as in terms of providing input on the Commission's Racial Equity Action Plan for greatest impact. It is important to learn about the Committee's influence and limitations before committing to multiple projects.
- Ensure that Committee recommendations are heard, are impactful, and make a difference.
- Have a goal prepared to discuss at each meeting for better outcomes due to the limited number of meetings per year.
- Be solution-oriented. Accomplish one recommendation to the Commission for greater impact.
- It is important to learn how to follow-up, reinforce, and hold counties accountable to policies in order to reduce inequalities. It is time to hold the system accountable. How many providers have the cultural expertise and cultural competency to retain and engage individuals of color for treatment?
- The expertise and wisdom represented in this Committee can make a big difference.

- Focus Area 2 - mental health outreach materials are often not accurately translated both in the state and across the nation.
- Focus Area 2 - next-generation immigrants' needs are different. Create targeted messaging that looks at how that generation perceives mental health outreach differently than the first generation, who may only speak the home language.
- Focus Area 2 - the ways in which disparities are identified varies. One of the leading ways that historically identifies disparities and inequities in the system is through penetration rates. This is a narrow view of disparities. Perspectives on how to identify inequities need to be broadened. Mental health intersects many inequities in society.
- Hold a forum to educate communities on basic mental health symptoms to focus on what the community thinks the needs are related to mental health and substance use.

A Committee Member asked if the Committee Members will do additional work outside of the four meetings per year or provide input on materials provided prior to meetings.

Executive Director Ewing stated areas of focus for Committees has been a challenge in the past due to opposing viewpoints among Committee Members. The proposed three areas of focus are already being done by the Commission. The question is if this Committee is interested in helping the Commission do that work better by providing guidance.

Chair Alvarez summarized that Committee Members are asking for clarity and specificity on what it looks like for the three proposed areas of focus. She committed to work with the vice chair and staff to bring options to the next meeting to provide that clarity and those opportunities specifically to allow for a more robust discussion around specific actions the Committee can take.

Public Comment

Stacie Hiramoto, Director, Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition (REMHDCO), urged the Committee to take action to encourage the Commission to support the letter to the Legislature for \$50 million of sustainability funding for the CRDP.

Vattana Peong, Executive Director, Cambodian Family Community Center, and former CLCC Member, suggested reimagining the structure of the Committee and to create a Subcommittee or Workgroup to dive down deeply into the issues and bring back recommendations to the CLCC, which only meets two to three hours, four times a year. This is a way to get the work done.

Vattana Peong asked the Committee and the Commission to define "health equity" so everyone is speaking the same language.

Vattana Peong also urged the Committee to sign the letter of support to sustain the CRDP. The speaker offered their assistance in support of this effort.

Herman DeBose, Ph.D., former CLCC Member, stated the hope that the Chair and Vice Chair listen to the new Members' comments. Committee Members have asked about the extent of power of this Committee, if this Committee has a voice, if meeting four times a year is

sufficient, leverage - if the recommendations made by the CLCC will be listened to, and process - where the recommendations go.

Herman DeBose suggested finding ways to get sufficient staff for Committees. The speaker stated, if the population of the state of California is 60 percent individuals of color and if the Commission has a real interest in solving the problems of individuals of color in the area of mental health, it seems logical that there could be a way to find appropriate staff time out of additional resources to carry out the work of the Committees.

Herman DeBose asked, if there is an issue that relates to the 60 percent of the population, to have the courage to speak truth to power. The speaker encouraged Committee Members to say what they have to say and to hold those accountable for making decisions about the 60 percent of the population of the state of California to do what is best for them. The speaker urged Executive Director Ewing to find staff for this Committee.

Kelechi Ubozoh stated there is an urgency around funding the CRDP and uplifting community-defined evidence-based practices. The speaker urged the Committee to sign the letter of support to sustain the CRDP to broaden their work, increase access, and integrate this work into different systems for greater health and healing collectively.

Kelechi Ubozoh stated, in order for this Committee to do the work, there must be space in the meeting to do action. Four meetings per year is not enough. The speaker stated the need for time for Committee Members to get to know each other, to understand what the Committee will be doing and how it will do it, and to determine how to hold individuals accountable for the advice that the Committee gives. The speaker asked Committee Members to keep in the forefront of their minds that a measure of success is if lives were changed as a result of the work of this Committee.

Agenda Item 2: Provide Input on COVID-19 Impact Proposal

Presenters:

- Norma Pate, Deputy Director, MHSOAC
- Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola, M.D., Ph.D., Center for Reducing Health Disparities, UC Davis
- Tracy Lacey, Senior Mental Health Services Manager-MHSA Coordinator, Solano County DHSS

Chair Alvarez stated the Committee will hear a presentation and provide input on the Commission's proposal to address COVID-19 impacts on diverse communities.

Norma Pate, Deputy Director, MHSOAC, summarized the COVID-19 Response for Addressing Racial, Ethnic, and Cultural Disparities Funding Proposals document, which was included in the meeting materials. She stated the proposals to respond to the negative impacts on mental health resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic are to invest in replicating the Solano County Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Cultural Transformation Model (ICCTM) Innovation Project, and to invest in leveraging the CRDP.

Sharmil Shah, Psy.D., Chief of Program Operations, provided a brief introduction of the ICCTM.

Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola, M.D., Ph.D., Director, UC Davis Center for Reducing Health Disparities, provided an overview, with a slide presentation, of the goals, timeline, and framework of the ICCTM Innovation Project, which was included in the meeting materials.

Tracy Lacey, Senior Mental Health Services Manager and MHSA Coordinator, Solano County DHSS, continued the slide presentation and discussed the Quality Improvement (QI) Action Plans and outcomes of the ICCTM Innovation Project and components of the proposed ICCTM Learning Collaborative, as outlined on page 2 of the Funding Proposals document, which was provided in the meeting materials.

Due to the lack of time, Chair Alvarez asked that the following be tabled to the next meeting:

- Tom Orrock's overview of the CRDP.
- The discussion on Dr. Aguilar-Gaxiola's and Ms. Lacey's presentations of the ICCTM Innovation Collaborative.
- Chief Counsel Yeroshek's presentation of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

Agenda Item 3: Review of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act

Presenter:

- Filomena Yeroshek, Chief Counsel

This agenda item was tabled to the next Committee meeting.

Adjourn

Chair Alvarez asked staff to survey Committee Member availability for future meetings and to send materials on the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act to Committee Members for their review prior to the next meeting.

Chair Alvarez adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:00 p.m.