

Population Prevention Panel

Commission on Behavioral Health Meeting
January 23, 2026



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Racial & Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition (REMHDCCO)



Development of Terminology and Definitions

- Discrimination
 - Cultural Competence
 - Cultural Humility
 - Reducing Disparities
 - Equity
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REMHDCO's Initial Efforts - Proposition 63/MHSA

- **REMHDCO formed in November of 2007**
 - **First came out at the MHSOAC Meeting of that month**
- **Emergency Regulations for the MHSA**
 - **Definition of Underserved**



Definition of Underserved



“Underserved” means clients of any age who have been diagnosed with a serious mental illness and/or serious emotional disturbance and are receiving some services, but are not provided the necessary or appropriate opportunities to support their recovery, wellness and/or resilience. When appropriate, it includes clients whose family members are not receiving sufficient services to support the client’s recovery, wellness and/or resilience. These clients include, but are not limited to, those who are so poorly served that they are at risk of homelessness, institutionalization, incarceration, out-of home placement or other serious consequences; members of ethnic/racial, cultural, and linguistic populations that do not have access to mental health programs due to barriers such as poor identification of their mental health needs, poor engagement and outreach, limited language access, and lack of culturally competent services; and those in rural areas, Native American rancherias and/or reservations who are not receiving sufficient services.



REMHDCO's Proposed Definition

- ▶ “Underserved” means people from racial, ethnic, or limited/non-English speaking communities that have a demonstrated history of disparities in access to and utilization of appropriate, voluntary mental health services. Underserved may also include people from the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender/intersex (LGBTI) community, rural communities, people who are homeless, transition-age youth, older adults/seniors, and other groups that demonstrate a disparity in access to community mental health services.
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