

Summary

Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Cultural Humility, Health Equity & Social Justice Committee

January 26, 2023
10:05 am – 11:00 am
Behavioral Health & Recovery Services Facility
Teleconference via Zoom

Present:

Sharon Jones, Bacilia Mendez, Cindy Mattox, Zeus Baldevia, Leslie Benitez, Jose Chavez, Maria Colomer, Linda Deol, Kristen Fierro, Heydi Herrera, Ayesha Hunter, Tony Lor, Conor Maloney, Cara Rupp, Ye Thao, Griselda Vazquez

Presentation and Discussion:

All Members

I. Check-in/Conocimiento

II. Approval of Minutes

The approval of minutes for November 17, 2022 was motioned/seconded (Jose Chavez-Diaz / Kristen Fierro) and carried.

III. Emergency Resources Center

During the flood, Behavioral Health and Human Services Agency joined together to support our local community's families. Does anyone have any updates on the situation that we might share? In the Planada community, the Strengthening Families Partners support families dealing with trauma and life's uncertainties. How is anyone else assisting the community in any way to provide further support?

Jose Chavez-Diaz – The nursing team at Golden Valley Health Center (GVHC) has been there since last week, assisting patients in scheduling appointments with their providers, so that they can get their prescriptions renewed more quickly. All residents of Planada will now be sent to Le Grand and Merced Suites. We have asked for all GVHC centers in Merced to provide new items such as towels, blankets, sheets, and canned food. Some of the supplies I'll be picking up today, and some I'll be taking to the Planada Senior Center tomorrow.

We will be distributing to the Planada residence on Saturday at the Senior Center in collaboration with Cultiva La Salud. Is the Community Center open or will it be in the park, Sharon inquired? Jose responded, "We will be at the Senior Center because the Community Center is still closed due to extensive flood damage." We were handing out hot meals, drink, infant formula, diapers, and toothpaste outside the community center.

Linda Deol – - Livingston Community Health (LCH) has a meeting tonight. Could you please suggest three things that LCH could contribute to the Planada Community?

Jose Chavez-Diaz – I know that they need towels, a big need is mattresses, most of the residence's mattress got flooded, as we drove by we could see that they were trying to dry them off in the sun, but then it rained the next day. Anything such as food, toys, shoes, socks, clothing, sweat shirts, jackets, house hold items would be useful.

Maria Colomer – Central California Alliance staff are out in the Planada community, in the disaster center, to remind members of their benefits, especially about transportation services. Some people have lost their vehicles and have no transportation. We help to remind them to use their benefits to get to their appointments, including their medication appointments. We are doing outreach via-phone to remind them of their benefits because not everyone makes it to the disaster center. We are mailing out replacement benefit cards to clients that live in the flooding zone.

Conor Maloney – Jose if you can share your information I can get the word out to my team. We can see what supplies are needed and what support is needed to help. Cultiva La Salud is our neighbor so it will be easy.

Jose Chavez-Diaz – GVHC's plan is for me to go around with a big Cargo Van and pick up all items donated and be at the senior center outreach event by Saturday to distribute items from 11:00am – 5:00pm. I would like to talk to Cultiva La Salud to see what plans they have.

Sharon Jones – Other items can be food items, pots and pans, cleaning supplies, dishwashing soap, Jose also mentioned bleach.

IV. Community Support and Outreach

Sharon Jones asked; What are some recommendations for outreach and dissemination of information and engaging the community?

Tony Lor – from Merced Lao Family stated, just sitting down and talking to them, it can really help. I have a few clients that their places were flooded, and they are afraid, it traumatizes them because they are afraid of water, just going to the pool frightens them, because of what happened, and all the stories they see on social media, television and news. Sharon mentioned being present, giving them the space to have the conversation on their terms.

From the Chat – Officer Zeus Baldevia – The Livingston Police Department is putting together items and donation for the flood victims. The LPD Explorers/Cadets are making a check donation together with other local Explorer Posts to help purchase mattresses/bedding materials for victims. Sharon also added that Jose Chavez-Diaz added his email/phone information for anyone to reach him.

V. Current Needs for Families and Children

Sharon asked about any other specific needs for families and children. No one had further comments.

VI. Cultural Competence Plan Update was submitted on December 31, 2022

Sharon mentioned she was able to submit the Cultural Competence Plan before December 31, 2022, and she will send a copy out to everyone. Sharon shared the Cultural Competence Plan cover on the screen report with everyone. Not many changes over the years, but she tried to highlight the areas that the State wanted to see. The other part is that the Plan is aligned with Culturally Linguistic and Appropriate Standards, which were always included in the plan. They are the foundation of the other 8 criteria that was due in the plan.

Conor Maloney – Are you referring to CLAS Standards that are in HHS.gov? Sharon responded that yes, the CLAS are the federal standards, Culturally and Linguistic Appropriate Standards. If any county/program receives \$1 of federal funding they are subject to the CLAS Standard, with equitable care being the #1 Standard. The CLAS guide the plan. They are the federal standards, and of course if the state/federal government is passing down funds to local government, we are still subject to the CLAS Standards.

VII. New Cultural Competence Planning Guidelines

According to Sharon, the subject for discussion over the upcoming year will be the planning standards. The many sections that we will need to include in the plan should be expected on each agenda. The Cultural Competence Plan and Updates are submitted to the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). The new requirements include a focus on:

- Governance, leadership, and workforce development. Does the workforce match the demographics of the area served?
- Communication and language assistance: language translation, print, signage, multi-media resources, hiring bilingual staff
- Engagement

- Continuous improvement and accountability
- Participation, ongoing development, and responsibility
- Establishing goals that are culturally and linguistically suitable.
- Have an advisory committee, such as the Cultural Humility Committee,
- Accurate demographics for the County
- Ongoing organizational evaluations, and
- Specific community engagement strategies
- Ethnic Services Manager
 - Responsible for a Community Planning Process, Participation Program Creation and Reviews, Budget Planning, Workforce and Education Training, Human Resource, Quality Assurance, Community Process Activities, and use of Interpreter.
 - Ensuring services for translation, outreach to determine target groups, Specialized staff, a special budget for appropriate and linguistic services, human resources policies,

Because these are all the items they have recognized, all of the above will be included in the upcoming plan. (EXAMPLES) What are the county's governance priorities for the upcoming year? What are the County priorities for Leadership? Explain a particular, doable goal that addresses this priority. What are the counties' top priorities for oversight and governance?

Sharon -What kind of training should practitioners receive in light of the recent major flooding incident? Do we need to practice cultural humility more? We conduct CBMCS training here. I completed Inclusion and Diversity prior to COVID.

Griselda Vazquez - I participated in a training last Friday at BHRS, the LGBTQ 101, with more to come in the future, looking forward for them, and it's been a while since I participated in a training but its nice to be in person. Did you in the past have a training that covered implicit and explicit bias? That would be a great one because we have changed, the world, organizations, the way we approach thing have changed some were great and some not so great. It would be nice if we could do a revisit of that training preferably in person, I'm advocating for that in person.

Sharon mentioned that the one topic she is learning is the isms, like racism, sexism, classism, and all the isms. The Culture of Humble Beginnings is another.

Conor Maloney – noted the importance of being able to include recent changes and those that are on the horizon, as well as work with various work styles, in-person training is perfect. We have experience helping people, but there are also people we haven't helped before; therefore, we need to improve our best practices, outreach, and conscious efforts. I would be interested in hearing from stakeholders and members.

VIII. Community Mental Health Equity Project (CMHEP) Performance Evaluation Framework

There is more information and I will be sending out to you. They will evaluate the Plan, the last time the Culture Competence Plan guideline came out was 2010. After 13 years they have revamped the guidelines. At this meeting we will be doing the step by step work this year.

Sharon - What is something we can do to ensure we are Culturally responsive in the New Year?

Griselda Vazquez - We have had some issues but have made some improvements in Livingston. This reporting period there was an issue that occurred in the community, a participants family member was directly involved with a violent crime that resulted in their death. I'm personally very close with this participant. I'm working and connecting with her, being available and sensitive to their grief. Also, connecting her to resources like Jessica's House, and 1:1 care, helping with other family members, the loss was a sibling and a son. This incident has not been made public. It is alarming as to what happened in the community, but yet not a lot of

attention has been brought up. It's an open case and still going on. Sharon added it is important to be non-judgmental, present and genuine.

IX. Next Steps

Kimiko Vang will be our new Behavioral Health Director, starting on Monday January 30, 2023. Jacqui Coulter, who was our Assistant Director of Clinical Services is no longer here as of December 30, 2022. We are in the process of hiring an Assistant Director. The job posting is currently out on our website. We are building up our Peer Support Specialist Certification Program at BHRS.

Jose Chavez-Diaz, GVHC – Let the Planada community know we will be at the Senior Center Saturday at 12 noon, giving out items needed. On Saturday, January 28, 2023 from 1pm to 2pm, GVHC will be at the Merced Flea Market along with Cultiva La Salud. We will provide COVID 19 vaccine boosters, MPOX vaccines, blood pressure and glucose check. It is an ongoing event, occurring on the last Saturday of every month.

More members are needed for this Cultural Humility Committee, so everyone please invite people from the community to the meeting.

X. Adjourn

11:00 am

Next meeting February 23, 2023.