

Summary

Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Cultural Competency Committee

July 16, 2020
10:05 am – 11:00 am
Behavioral Health & Recovery Services
301 East 13th Street, Merced

Present:

Norma Barragan, Alyssa Castro, Vong Chang, Jose Chavez-Diaz, Fernando Granados, Caitlin Haygood, Sharon Jones, Cindy Mattox, Maria Orozco, Nancy Reding, Steve Roussos, Anna Santos, Ralph Silva Rodriguez, Ker Thao, Genevieve Valentine, Griselda Vazquez, Janet Zamudio

Presentation and Discussion:

All Members

I. Check-in/Conocimiento

The group completed self-introductions, stating names and agencies. Sharon asked that those whose name was not called during role to email Maria Orozco to confirm their attendance.

II. Approval of Minutes

The approval of minutes for June 18, 2020, was motioned/seconded (Jose Chavez-Diaz/Alyssa Castro) and carried.

III. Discussion of Draft Guiding Definition

Sharon Jones reviewed the key tenants that were discussed in previous Cultural Competency Committee meetings which included lifelong learning, ethical practices, the process of forgiveness, self-reflection, being a good listener and present with whomever you are speaking to, providing advocacy, acknowledging power differentials, intersectionality, being mindful of the ever evolving nature of culture and change. The first draft of the definition of Cultural Competency, formulated by the feedback from the Cultural Competency Committee, reads as follows, "The process of lifelong learning, self-reflection and forgiveness, being a good listener and present with whomever you are speaking to, being able to listen, provide advocacy, and use ethical practices that acknowledge power differentials, being mindful of the ever evolving nature of culture, change, and intersectionality." Sharon requested feedback from the committee. She said feedback and suggestions can be sent by email to Maria Orozco.

IV. Essential Ingredients to a Successful Stakeholder Process Grounded in Integrity

Sharon Jones asked the committee for feedback on what the essential elements of engaging the community and stakeholders for a successful stakeholder process, grounded in integrity. Jose Chavez-Diaz from Golden Valley Health Centers Cultural Broker Program said it is essential that they continue to provide services such as presentations, events to inform the community of the services they have available in a cultural and linguistically appropriate manner. Christopher Jensen from BHRS Youth to Youth Mentoring Program shared about a recent stakeholder meeting in which a community member was trained to facilitate a focus group and an interpreter was present to translate the feedback into English for him and his staff, which allowed for the focus group to be facilitated in the group's native language. He said this method was very successful. They received much more input using this method versus the traditional method of facilitating the focus group in English and having an interpreter present to interpret for the larger group.

Sharon shared some of the essential ingredients for a successful and meaningful stakeholder process including the following:

- 1) Ground all efforts in integrity, compassion and humility for the individuals, families and communities that have been impacted by behavioral health challenges;
- 2) Know the ethnicities, languages and cultures of the communities to be served.

She will send the handout listing the remaining points following the meeting.

Sharon also shared about a recent Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR 92). This measure would recognize racism as a threat to public health. Sharon will share this for the committee's viewing.

V. Principles to consider as counties consider possible budget strategies

This topic was not discussed.

VI. Program Reports and Updates

Jose Chavez-Diaz from Golden Valley Health Centers stated that he emailed Maria Orozco a flyer with the addresses of COVID-19 testing locations throughout the county. He asked that the flyer be shared with the committee. Jose shared that he continues to do outreach to the community via telephone. They are able to inform patients of COVID-19 testing availability with their automated reminder call system in Spanish, Punjabi, and Hmong.

Sharon Jones shared that she is a participant of the City of Merced Police Advisory Committee. The committee will be having conversations about policing in Merced County. Sharon will report on the Advisory Committee meetings in upcoming Cultural Competency Committee meetings.

Fernando Granados from Sierra Vista Child and Family Services reported that they continue to hold virtual psychoeducation groups, as well as groups on the pandemic and how to protect themselves, where they provide information on where they can get tested. They also continue to hold PEI family groups. They are doing more programming around the topic of cyberbullying, as well as other social skills programming. They are using Zoom as well as Microsoft Office 365 to share encrypted documents. Anna Santos from Aspiranet TIP said they also use Microsoft 365 and the Microsoft Teams platform to hold meetings.

Norma Barragan from MCOE Caring Kids shared that they are offering classes for parents on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm through Zoom. Topics for July include How to Raise Emotionally Healthy Children, Healthy Attachments and Bonding, Learn the Signs – Act Early, Dealing with Stress, Infant and Child Development. On Fridays, host parent workshops through the MCOE Migrant Workshops.

Vong Chang from Turning Point said they also use Microsoft Teams for staff updates, rather than Zoom. In terms of consumers, they continue to do home visits and outreach, continue to work with them in their homes and communities. Many do not have access to proper cell phones that allow for video chatting, so they continue to disseminate information via face-to-face contact in their home setting. They continue to be very cautious. Vong said this population consists of an underrepresented group of individuals, the staff at Turning Point continues to work through barriers and be an essential support for them.

Sharon Jones encouraged everyone to participate and share the upcoming focus groups. Those that are interested in participating in the Community Program Planning Process as a Key Informant should send their name to Maria Orozco.

VII. Possibilities and Success Stories

No possibilities or success stories were shared.

VIII. Next Steps

The next meeting will be on August 27, 2020. The regular meeting date was changed for the August meeting, along with the Ongoing Planning Council meeting, due to a scheduling conflict.

IX. Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.