

# Summary

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

October 15, 2020  
10:05 am – 11:00 am  
Behavioral Health & Recovery Services  
via Teleconference

### Present:

Caitlin Haygood, Christopher Jensen, Sharon Jones, Dwayne Kawakami, Patti Kishi, Ismael Munoz, Maria Orozco, Sophia Ornelas, Rocio Ortega, Nancy Reding, Anna Santos, Ye Thao, Cari Urquiza, Belle Vallador, Griselda Vazquez, Jennifer Xiong, Linda Xiong, Janet Zamudio

### Presentation and Discussion:

*All Members*

#### I. Check-in/Conocimiento

Sharon asked that those in attendance email Maria Orozco to confirm their attendance.

#### II. Approval of Minutes

The approval of minutes for September 17, 2020, was motioned/seconded (Nancy Reding/Fernando Granados) and carried.

#### III. Presentation

Linda Xiong, Co-Found of the HLUB Hmong Center presented on *Learning the Hmong Way: Story Cloth for Change*. The presentation provided information about background of the Hlub Hmong Center and the organization's mission, which is to ensure the survival, well-being, and prosperity of the Hmong people and their rich cultural heritage. One of their priorities is to ensure Hmong children from the ages 0-5 benefit from Early Learning Care (ELC) the best way possible. Linda shared strategies and ideas they are currently using to explore what is the Hmong way. Hmong families are not fully accessing and utilizing services because the services and programs are not shared or communicated in a way that fits the context of their lives and needs. Hlub Hmong Center came up with the idea of the story cloth method as a way to engage community members and public institutions through story telling. Hlub Hmong Center is one of the few Hmong led organizations in the United States that is aiming to create systems change. They wanted to use a storytelling approach to encourage systems change through the sharing of tradition to empower, communicate, and build relationships. Linda identified the six steps to story cloth for change which consist of identifying health inequity, engage responsible public institution, organize community workgroup, teach "story cloth" method for systems change to both groups, institution and community workgroup create their own "story cloth", and institution and community co-create joint "story cloth."

Sharon Jones, BHRS, asked if the story cloth is designed on paper first and then created using cloth. Linda said that rather than doing a physical embroidered story cloth at this time, their goal is to be able to transfer the paper drawings on a digital story cloth. Sharon also asked how, in terms of providing services for the Hmong community, what is the story how the services are viewed and received. Linda shared that this is something they are currently exploring. They are working with institutions to change the rules in a way that benefits both the institutions and the community.

#### IV. Discussion on Cultural Competence Plan Update

Sharon Jones shared that each year the department updates the cultural competence plan update and will bring it to the committee for review. Though the department uses the terminology "cultural humility" which focuses on lifelong learning and mitigating power imbalances, the state still uses the term "cultural competence."

#### **V. BHRS Cultural Humility Launch**

Sharon Jones reported that BHRS is in the early stages of preparing to launch a Cultural Humility initiative.

#### **VI. Development of Action Steps to Support Unserved and Underserved Groups**

Sharon Jones asked the committee to think about what action steps needs to be taken as a committee to support our underserved communities. She would like to see more presentations similar to the Hlub Hmong Center presentation. She asked those interested in providing a presentation to contact herself or Maria Orozco. Marilyn Mochel stated she would like to provide a presentation on Social Determinants of Health and Healthy Equity during the next meeting. Nancy Reding said that she can assist with arranging a presentation in early 2021 for the LGBTQ+ community.

#### **VII. Upcoming MHSA Public Hearing**

Sharon Jones shared that there will be a public hearing for the MHSA FY 2020-2023 Three-Year Plan at 5:00 pm on October 20, 2020 after the Behavioral Health Board meeting. She encourages everyone to attend.

#### **VIII. Peer Support**

Sharon emphasized the importance of peer support and the lived experience of peers.

#### **IX. Program Reports and Updates**

Marilyn Mochel, NAMI, noted that contracted agencies are supposed to participate in a certain number of hours of cultural humility training. She asked if there is a template that details what needs to be included in these presentations. It would be helpful for those who are not able to attend the trainings the department provides to have an option to attend an outside training. Sharon Jones said the process is outlined in the contract language.

Christopher Jensen, BHRS, asked Linda Xiong, Hlub Hmong Center, if her organization would be willing to partner with agencies that are wanting to do assessments specifically with the Hmong culture so we can be more inclusive of their voice if that seems to be a successful way to assess barriers to care or health. Linda said they are still in the beginning stages of developing these assessments, but they would be happy to collaborate. She said she has found that story telling is one of the best ways to ensure the authentic voice is heard and shared.

Marilyn stated that the concepts that Linda has shared worked across different language and cultural groups. The sharing of stories is a powerful way of building trust and relationships, no matter what the group is. It's about listening and developing that relationship. Sharon agreed. She said that stories are less threatening than clinical jargon and can be a powerful tool for healing.

Nancy Reding shared that GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network) has successfully become a chapter in Merced. There will be community education happening on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Nancy said that there will be a training on voting on the 20<sup>th</sup> that State Senator Anna Caballero and Organizing for Change for Merced County. Nancy said voting is how we can continue to speak for ourselves, our communities, and our families. She asked that if anyone is unable to vote, to continue to communicate with their friends and families about the importance of voting.

Jesse Ornelas, Youth Leadership Institutes, announced that there have been many changes with the YLI Merced Office, the biggest of which is the formation of a group called the Merced Youth Revolutionary Front where youth are learning about the impacts of capitalism and white supremacy in their lives and relating it to what is going on in the county of Merced. The program coordinators are young and innovative and have been able to reach the young people in new ways. Jesse said he would be willing to do a presentation on the types of work that the Merced Youth Revolutionary Front is doing.

Jennifer Xiong from Hlub Hmong Center announced that they are currently running a fundraiser campaign. Donations will go towards ensuring public institutions serve Hmong needs so leaders will be able to work on improving education for Hmong children from birth to college, and creating programs and policies that honor Hmong culture and language, as well as the goal to launch the first Hmong community center in Merced.

Sharon Jones announced that she will begin offering more cultural humility trainings via Zoom. The next training is Diversity and Inclusion.

**X. Possibilities and Success Stories**

Marilyn Mochel, NAMI, announced that there is a Health Equity Coalition and she will be doing a presentation on the health equity impact assessment. Marilyn said there is a need to begin practicing more with that equity and racial equity framework. The coalition meets once a month from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. She said this coalition would be useful for this group to attend to learn how we can practice health equity and implement processes, organizationally and as a group, to move this initiative forward.

Jennifer from Hlub Hmong Center announced that they are holding Hmong Parent Check-In meetings once a month. Identify top priorities that Hmong families care about and work to champion them to create that impact. She asked that if anyone is interested in joining or providing a presentation for the group to contact Jennifer.

**XI. Next Steps**

Marilyn Mochel will be providing a presentation to the group on the topic of Health Equity.  
The draft Cultural Competence Update will be sent out for review soon.  
The committee can continue to develop the framework for health equity.

**XII. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 10:51 a.m.