

Summary

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

March 25, 2021
10:05 am – 11:00 am
Behavioral Health & Recovery Services
via Teleconference

Present:

Taylor Brown, Alyssa Castro, Vong Chang, Jose Chavez-Diaz, Fernando Granados, Caitlin Haygood, Christopher Jensen, Jennifer Jones, Sharon Jones, Katilyn McIntire, Maria Orozco, Rocio Ortega, Nancy Reding, Cara Rupp, Nai Saechao, Aracely Sanchez, Tony Slaton, Brian Sterkeson, Ker Thao, Griselda Vazquez, Siaxouwyee Vue, Jennifer 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 February 25, 2020, was motioned/seconded (Fernando Granados/Jose Chavez-Diaz) and carried.

III. Discussion on Presentations

Jose-Chavez Diaz from Golden Valley Health Centers (GVHC) introduced the committee to the new manager over the Cultural Broker and Outreach team at GVHC, Katilyn McIntire.

Marilyn Mochel, representing LEAD (Leaders for Equity and Dignity), provided a presentation on Equity and Social Justice. She said this is an opportunity for everyone to think about what health equity and social justice might mean for the committee. Marilyn's presentation focused on equity and inequity, moving towards and equity lens, implementing equity tools, social justice, moving toward social justice thinking, and how the committee can take collective action.

Jennifer Jones, BHRS, said this conversation is important. She said that those who have been experiencing some of the difficulties involving racism and social justice may have strengths that can assist those who may not have the language or knowledge of how to navigate the system to advocate for themselves. She said that some people do not have the strength to stand up and say, "Black Lives Matter" and for others it may not be fitting for their organization to participate in social justice, but there are ways for everybody to participate when they see acts of injustice. They can use their influence or power, whether it is their race or financial status, to change the tide of a situation that may be unjust. Sometimes it may be standing there and being present or making your voice known when you see something happening that is not right. It is important to strengthen yourself to be able to walk these walks because standing up and speaking against social injustice is not easy; it can be stressful and can take a toll on your mental health. It is good to have a network of care to support you. Jose Chavez-Diaz from Golden Valley Health Centers shared that GVHC has worked hard to provide services and outreach to underserved communities. Jose said that Marilyn's presentation will be very helpful to the team at GVHC. Sharon Jones noted the importance of allies in using their privilege to speak out against injustices. Jennifer Xiong from Hlub Hmong Center agreed with everyone and said that oftentimes we have to think about whether some of these activities are performative. We have to think about whether our work is effective in moving the community forward or whether it is for show, as accountability is something that a lot of organizations struggle with. More community input can help keep institutions and organizations accountable. We should focus on what is strong about the community and

not what is wrong about the community. Part of her hope for this committee was to see action. There is still a lot of opportunities for this group to take action and create projects for everyone to participate in. Marilyn said she is hopeful the committee can continue to work together to achieve what the name of the committee actually is and together we can make a huge difference. Fernando Granados from Sierra Vista Child and Family Services thanked Marilyn for bringing this topic to the committee.

IV. Criterion 1: Commitment to Cultural Competence

This topic was tabled. Sharon said she will send the criterion for the Cultural Competence Plan to the committee and each criterion will be discussed at future meetings.

V. Committee Guiding Definition

Sharon Jones read the Cultural Humility, Health Equity and Social Justice guiding definition, “Encourage the process of lifelong learning, self-reflection, listening, providing advocacy, and using ethical practices that acknowledge power differentials, while remaining mindful of the ever-evolving nature of culture, change, and intersectionality.”

VI. Principle Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Standard

Sharon Jones read the Principle CLAS Standard, “Provide effective, equitable, understandable and respectful quality care and services that are responsive to diverse cultural health beliefs and practices, preferred languages, health literacy and other communication needs.”

VII. MCOE Video ACE Aware

Sharon played the following video for the committee to inform them of the ACEs Aware Initiative ACEs Assessment Tool: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wTC7Ne6XFgQ>

VIII. Update Cultural Humility Training

This topic was tabled due to time constraints.

IX. Community Outreach, Education and Engagement (COVID-19)

This topic was tabled due to time constraints.

X. May is Mental Health Awareness Month

This topic was tabled due to time constraints.

XI. Substance Use Division Reports

This topic was tabled due to time constraints.

XII. Client/Consumer Reports

This topic was tabled due to time constraints.

XIII. Updates

This topic was tabled due to time constraints.

XIV. Possibilities and Success Stories

This topic was tabled due to time constraints.

XV. Next Steps

Sharon will send the committee the ACEs tool and roadmap.

XVI. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:06 AM.





