



CULTURAL COMPETENCY UPDATE

...a newsletter to address cultural issues that enable us to effectively work in cross cultural situations.

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CASRA Program Highlights

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In partnership with Modesto Junior College (MJC), the California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agency (CASRA) program provides a structure to integrate academic learning into real life field experience in the adult public mental health system. Before this partnership, MJC didn't have a mental health curriculum. The initiative taken by BHRS to purchase the CASRA curriculum signifies the efforts to fill the gaps for employment of consumers and family members.

This is a nine (9) unit certificated course that provides individuals with the knowledge and skills to apply goals, values, and principles of recovery oriented practices to effectively serve consumers and family members. The certificated units also count towards an Associate of Arts Degree in Human Services at MJC.

The CASRA program includes student stipends to assist with school fees, bus and parking passes, and school supply vouchers, as needed. There is also a textbook loan program. In addition, CASRA students receive ongoing peer support and academic assistance to maximize their opportunities for success.

BHRS Cultural Competence Oversight Committee meets on the 2nd Monday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Redwood Room, 800 Scenic Drive

Highlights

All CASRA stipend recipients are either consumer/family members or from a diverse/underserved community. In this fiscal year, a total of 76 students received CASRA stipends. There were 10 CASRA certificated students who completed a minimum of two thousand, five hundred (2500) field experience hours to meet the requirements for the CASRA national certification examination. 3 CASRA volunteers were hired in the public mental health system; 1 by BHRS and 2 by partner agencies.

Announcements

Day of Hope
May 2, 2014
10:00-3:00

King Kennedy Center
601 N. Martin Luther King Dr,
Modesto

MHSA Document

The MHSA Annual Update FY14-15 and 3-Year Program and Expenditure Plan is available for 30-day public review and comment April 23 through May 22, 2014.

To access the document, go to:

www.stanislausmhsa.com

The Program Results for Fiscal Year 12/13

How much?

- * 76 CASRA students received education stipends
- * 20 CASRA students were placed in field placement with BHRS
- * 2 CASRA orientations were held at MJC to raise awareness about the program
- * 2 trainings was held for staff about stigma on mental illness and ways to reduce it in the workforce

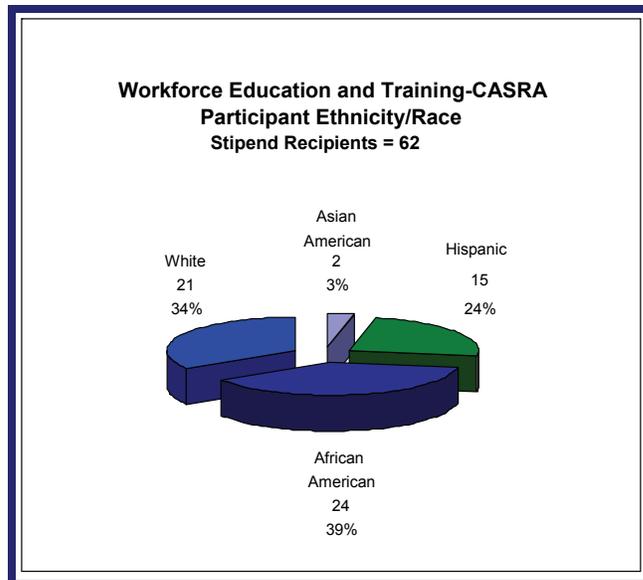
How well?

- * 100% of CASRA stipend recipients have lived experience as consumers or are from diverse cultural backgrounds
- * 100% of CASRA students completed field placement

Is anyone better off?

- * 10 CASRA students completed the academic requirements and a minimum of 2,500 hours and are eligible for National CASRA certification
- * 3 CASRA volunteers were hired in the public mental health system; 1 by BHRS and 2 by partner agencies
- * AND, “M,” a CASRA student, reported that the program was a blessing because she didn’t have to worry about purchasing books for the semester. She says it was a big help. What she valued most was the help and assistance she received from CASRA personnel in providing guidance and tutoring help for her to succeed. Receiving a monthly bus pass and having her student fees paid was also a great help.

And, the graph on the right, further celebrates our diversity!



Highlights of March Cultural Equity and Social Justice Committee (CESJC) Meeting

- * **Champion Award Criteria**—Ruben shared the history of how the criteria was developed. Ruben stated due to the change in focus for the committee, not only addressing issues of cultural competency but of equity and social justice, last month ideas about changing or expanding the criteria was proposed to the committee. The committee recommended a workgroup to convene to review the criteria to see if there are any ideas or recommendations for those who are also working in the areas of equity and social justice. The workgroup would look at the criteria to 1) See if the criteria should be expanded and 2) If expanded, what would the criteria be and how to add it to the award.
- * **Newsletter Name**—There was discussion about changing the name of the newsletter. Because the name of the committee was changed, Ruben asked the committee for feedback on changing the name of the newsletter to reflect the committee’s new name. Ruben asked if the name should be the same as the committee’s new name or something else due that the name is long. Christina Kenney suggested having a name contest via e-mail – the committee agreed. John Black suggested having a tag line.
- * **CLAS Standards Training**—Ruben reported the state is requesting updates on data about the Cultural Competency Plan. Ruben stated the plan will need to be in the Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) framework. Jorge conducted a training on CLAS.
- * **CESJ Asset Mapping**—The committee performed a group exercise to talk about the 15 standards and some of things the programs/organizations are doing in these areas to see what needs to be worked on to move forward. There was a large group discussion/summary of the results from the exercise. Ruben asked committee members to take the CLAS Standards back to their programs to talk about the things they are working on to start mapping them.
- * **Consumer/Family Input**— Ruben asked the committee how the agenda item of Consumer/Family Input can be evolved to strengthen the participation from consumers and family members, to make sure it’s more meaningful, more intentional. Ruben recommended a workgroup to figure out how the committee would want to continue to evolve participation and partnership with those we serve and their families. An e-mail will be sent to the committee about establishing the workgroup. If anyone is interested in participating, they can respond to the e-mail or they can contact Ruben Imperial or Teresa Garibay.

If you have questions or suggestions regarding Cultural Competency, please forward them by e-mail to:

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