



STANISLAUS COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES

CULTURAL COMPETENCY UPDATE

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

May 2015

Volume 11, Issue 5

The Stanislaus County Family Advocate's Office

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Stanislaus County—Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

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The Family Advocate program has been a great success. In the last year we have served over two hundred families and over one hundred in crises calls.

Families are able to access the Family Advocate's office through a number of sources, such as: the Stanislaus County – BHRS intranet, Doctors Behavioral Health Center (DBHC) , Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) in Ceres, Stanislaus County – BHRS case management , Turning Point 24 hour crisis line, and NAMI Help Line. We are able to help families through making referrals to mental health and/or substance use disorder services in the county. We use many resources to help the families in crisis to meet the clients where they are in their recovery.

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 Martin Conference Room, 830 Scenic Drive

In some cases we are able to meet and talk with the family to help educate them on a variety of topics, such as 1) what is a 5150 or a 5250 and 2) how a conservatorship process happens when their family member is in the psychiatric hospital. A **5150** is a section of the California Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) (in particular, the Lanterman–Petris–Short Act or "LPS") which authorizes a qualified officer (i.e. any California peace officer) or clinician to involuntarily confine a person suspected to have a mental disorder that makes him or her a danger to themselves, a danger to others, and/or gravely disabled for up to 72 hours after signing a written declaration. A **5250** is a section of the California Welfare and Institutions Code (specifically the LPS as mentioned above) which allows a qualified officer or clinician to involuntarily confine a person deemed to have certain mental disorders for up to 14 days, following being involuntarily held for 72 hours under a Section 5150 hold.

When it comes to drug and or alcohol treatment we give the family information about Stanislaus Recovery Center (SRC) and/or Genesis and the process to get into those programs. We also help link families to the Outreach and Engagement Programs, where peer support is offered to the family member on a one to one engagement. The peer support team works with the Family Advocate's office to help to engage and educate the families in how to help their family members that may not be ready for services at this time. We are also there when they are ready to accept help.

Over this last year we have been able to help advocate to families of diverse cultures on how case management works. We try to educate ourselves through other families of that culture and contact an interpreter as needed for communication. We have had great success in helping families understand how our mental health systems work in Stanislaus County. The greatest reports that we hear from the families are that they are grateful to have NAMI family education support and having the Family Advocate's office as a support person to call and

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count on when going through a time with they feel no one else is there or understands.

Here is just one story of a life being changed through Family Advocacy:

The office received a call last summer from a family member that had a client that was living in the park, not taking their medication for their mental illness. The client was drinking, doing drugs, getting into fights and sleeping along the river. This client was not willing to come in to get help so the Family Advocate's office along with the Outreach Peer Support team went out to try to engage the client. At that time we were unable to engage the client because the client saw us and was not willing to talk. From this point on the Outreach Peer Support Team continued to try to engage with client for six (6) months. The last call that came in involved the police. As a result, the client was put in the psychiatric hospital. The client's family members called the Family Advocate's office and stated they were notified that the client was in the hospital. One of the advocates from the Family Advocate's office went to visit the client and was able to get a release of information for the family to be able to talk about treatment plans, for the client with family. The Family Advocate's office was able to work with the Partnership Telecare Recovery Access Center (TRAC) team to outreach to the client. This assisted the family with getting client engaged to do treatment. This was accomplished by using the things that meant something to the client that only family would know, such as children, past jobs, what the client was doing when doing well to use that to engage and it worked. The client was open to getting help in all the areas and outreach and Family Advocacy was able to work together to help the client get life back on track to wellness in recovery.

If you are interested in learning more about the Family Advocate's Office, please contact Melissa Farris, Family Advocate, at (209) 525-6204. The Family Advocate's Office is located at 800 Scenic Drive, Building F. Business hours are from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Highlights of April Cultural Competency, Equity and Social Justice Committee (CCESJC) Meeting



- * The CCP workgroup will make recommendations to the CCESJC on issues to be addressed, and will report back to the CCESJC on issues that need to be resolved.
- * Yamilet Valladolid of El Concilio gave an update on the Latino Behavioral Health Access Coalition/
- * Luis Molina, CCESJC Community Liaison, shared a draft of the Latino Behavioral Health Access Coalition Interagency referral form that may assist in tracking referrals and assessing outcomes.
- * Jennifer Baker updated the CCESJC on the upcoming Spanish Speaking Suicide prevention training, which will be held on 4/27/15.
- * Women's Film Festival – 5/2/15 at the State Theater. Women's art show and reception at Peer Recovery Art Project
- * Day of Hope – 5/27/15 at 1220 J Street featuring Youth in Mind, Wellness Recovery Center

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

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