



September 2016

Volume 12, Issue 9

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.

Latino Behavioral Health Coalition

Authored by Coalition Members, submitted by Luis I. Molina, PEI Coordinator

History

Inside this issue:	
Latino Behavioral Health Coalition	1/2
Meeting Highlights	2

Initially, the Ethnic Services Manager and the PEI Manager had a vision to bring all providers that serve the underserved and unserved Latino populations in the county, to establish a better means of communicating and working closer together to provide respectful and dignified services to clients. The Latino Behavioral Health Coalition, (LBHC), was berthed.

The LBHC consists of Latino serving community organizations, community leaders, advocates, consumers and families, and community members. The LBHC's purpose is to provide oversight and support to increase behavioral health services access for Latinos that are culturally competent and linguistically appropriate on a spectrum-wide, promotion, prevention, as well as treatment and recovery support is offered.

The Coalition meets monthly to discuss data, advise in strategies and act jointly to address behavioral health access issues within the Latino community. The LBHC is co-chaired by the Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Leadership Team member, and a member of the coalition. LBHC Members define behavior health services as promotion, prevention, treatment and recovery level. The department of Behavioral Health & Recovery Services assigned a Staff Services Coordinator (SSC) to provide administrative, data, and monitoring support for the both the LBHC and the Latino Behavioral Health Access Project. The SSC also provides support for the department's other initiative targeting underserved and unserved ethnic and cultural populations. The Department will monitor the expansion of integrated primary early intervention services. The EI (Early Intervention) providers will work closely with the LBHC to coordinate and promote services and link the community-based and culturally appropriate peer support. The following are areas of focus for the coalition:

BHRS Cultural Competence, Equity and Social Justice 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

- A team of a Spanish-speaking Community Health Outreach Worker/Promotora and a Mental Health Clinician was embedded within a MHSA Full Service Partnership Outreach & Engagement Team. This team focuses on strengthening relationships amongst Latino service providers and community organizations, that offer direct engagement, access and assessment capability.
- Latino Behavioral Health Early Intervention Services Expansion - The department expanded the Early Intervention services to include two (2) Latino serving organizations. The Early Intervention (EI) teams were embedded in social service organizations to provide services to individuals experiencing early onset of mental health symptoms and to provide other social services and supports in community settings.
- Expanded Promotores to Address Behavioral Health Services Access – The Promotores program that specifically focused on prevention strategies was expanded to provide outreach and engagement to increase access to behavioral health early intervention and treatment services.



- Expanded Rural Outreach & Engagement – An Outreach and Engagement worker and a Mental Health Clinician will provide Outreach & Engagement services to rural communities, specifically targeting the high Latino population.
- The StanUp for Wellness Campaign: Latino – The department will partner with the LBHC to develop and implement the Anti-Stigma SanaMente/Each Mind Matter Campaign, Know the Signs/Reconozca las Señales Campaign, and Behavioral Health Access/Awareness and Education.
- Career Promotion/Education Campaign – Focus on Behavioral Health Field
- Suicide Prevention – Promote Suicide Prevention material and Rotafolio discussions.

The following are agencies as members of the Latino Behavioral Health Coalition:

- El Concilio
- Golden Valley Health Centers
- Telecare
- Catholic Charities
- Center for Human Services
- Sierra Vista
- QIC Chair
- PEI
- Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

Highlights from the Coalition include:

- Outreach & Engagement Table for the CSU, Stanislaus Chicano/Latino Leadership Conference
- Workshop Presentation on Behavioral Health Careers at the CSU, Stanislaus Chicano/Latino Leadership Conference
- Promotes community -based health education and prevention, particularly in communities underserved by the health care system
- Engages residents in the promotion of behavioral health and well-being
- Provide community-based early intervention and prevention services for Adult and Older Adults w/ emphasis on MHSA underserved and unserved populations

Contact information:

*The Latino Behavioral Health Coalition meets on the third Friday of each month from 3 pm—4 pm BHRS Staff Liaison:
Luis I. Molina, PEI Coordinator, (209) 541-2555, e-mail - lmolina@stanbhrs.org*

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



* NAMI

Lynn Padlo director of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) discussed the different programs that are offered through NAMI. NAMI currently has 3 programs offered in Spanish but would like to recruit more Spanish speaking presenters. They have reached out to Promotores and have an upcoming meeting to find individuals who are willing to commit to run the Spanish speaking programs. In the eight years NAMI has been a part of the mental health community in Stanislaus County and have increased their volunteers to about 25, they also have teachers and leaders. For more information or to sign up please contact them at (209) 558-4555 or namistanislaus.org.

* LGBTQ Silver/Gold Group and Welcoming Project Presentation

Presentation on Silver & Gold Support Group; an ongoing support group for mental health and wellness to meet the needs of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community. This group is designed for older adults and elders 50+ years of age. The group is held every Monday from 3:00 to 4:00 PM 305 Downey Ave. Modesto (209) 525-4919. This group is funded by 30-40 nonprofits who work together to support the community. Josie's Place facilitates Gender Fluidity every Thursday from 1-2 pm at 1208 9th Street, Modesto.

* Stigma Reduction

The committee was asked: "How are programs reducing stigma in their programs?" It was discussed that the lack of information causes stigma. There's a lot of stigma in the community around individuals that are seen as addicts. The concept of recovery came from the substance abuse side and incorporated into the mental health side. With Each Mind Matters campaign presentations are done to reach out to the public and educate. There is a need for treatment and support; no matter how a person gets there if it's due to mental illness, substance abuse or a combination of both its all about understating and supporting the people around you or getting the help / support that one needs.

Presentation by Madelyn Re: CCESJC Reflection on the history of CCESJC. Attribute the beginning to the previous leaders. Training on awareness evolved in changing the title. Moving forward with CLAS standards which have been reviewed and put in plan. Today's presentation is an excellent example of the message that is carried back to the different programs / organizations to get the message out there to come up with a better understanding on Cultural Competency, Equity and Social Justice as they are all handled differently. As to the vision of the future; everything changes over time, the key is being thoughtful on how things are done and the approach. The challenge is to keep this group meaningful to those who attend and want them to come back. Madelyn thanked the members of the committee for coming out and representing their departments and the co-chairs for stepping up and their willingness to doing this. Abraham thanked Madelyn for her dedication/service and support that she has shown for this committee.

If you have questions or suggestions regarding Cultural Competency, please e-mail:

Abraham Andres, aandres@stanbhrs.org

Jorge Fernandez, jfernandez@gvhc.org