



**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.*

## **MoPride builds a new Pride Center**

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MoPride, Inc. was founded in 2014 and is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization and today it continues to bring together all diverse groups to celebrate our LGBTQ community. MoPRIDE, Inc. raises funds through local events (Momma Cantrell's Bingo Night), Spaghetti Feed, Sunday Funday for family in the park, Rainbow Prom, Pride in the Park celebration, sponsorships and exhibitor fees. The goal is to bring people together to celebrate the achievements of the LGBTQ movement, remember our history and raise awareness of the work that still needs to be done.

In October 2016, MoPride worked even harder to reach out further to the LGBTQ community and is opening a new LGBTQ pride center. Central Valley Pride Center is located at 400 12<sup>th</sup> St. Suite 2 on the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> and D streets (the center faces the D street side). It will be a place that will provide support, resources and groups for the LGBTQ folks, their families or anyone that is interested in learning more about the LGBTQ community.

Central Valley Pride Center will be open part time in December and will increase hours in 2017. The hours will be Thursday and Friday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from noon to 6 p.m. The center will be staffed by volunteers trained by the Program Director and MoPride Board. The volunteers will be onsite to provide peer support and resource information for community members that come into the center or call for more information.

Central Valley Pride Center will offer a wide array of groups. Currently there are two groups that are being offered on a regular basis. The Under the Gender Umbrella group is offered on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the each month from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. This group is a place where individuals who are questioning their gender, transitioning or gender non binary can come to get support from others that are like minded and supportive of each other. This group has been in existence since June 2016 and is gaining more members every month. Katalina Zambrano is the facilitator of that group and has extensive knowledge of local resources and provides a safe environment for everyone that attends the group.



**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**



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Another group offered is a general LGBTQ support group offered on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month from 5:30- 7 p.m. This group is open to everyone LGBTQ that just wants to talk about current events, discuss a specific issue that they are having or share some information. This group was founded after the Orlando shooting in June as a way to help the community come together to discuss the hurt, anger and feelings that the community was having after this tragedy. It will continue to be a group that is open ended and a place where any conversation is welcome.

Central Valley Pride Center is determined to provide a safe haven, promote leadership and community awareness for the LGBTQ community. More programming is ahead for the Pride Center including a group for same sex parents, support for parents/family members of LGBTQ, collaboration with Gay Straight alliances in all the local high schools, specific groups for Lesbian and Gay. Several LGBTQ community members have inquired about providing specific workshops about legal issues that LGBTQ population may face, specific ethnicities and how LGBTQ are accepted in certain cultures as well as collaborating with Modesto Junior College and California State University Stanislaus LGBTQ groups.

MoPride is the parent company and funding source for the Central Valley Pride Center. MoPride is an organization that has a seven member board of directors (including the Program Director of CVPC, Elena Carrillo and the Pride in the Park Chairperson, Jo Sisemore) the board is led by President Kelly Cruz. MoPride also has a group of volunteers that are determined to initiate and promote support for the central valley LGBTQ community. The belief is that if there is understanding of the LGBTQ community that inevitably tolerance and eventually acceptance can happen.

Central Valley Pride Center will be open on December 10, 2016 from Noon to 6 p.m. Staff is more than happy to answer any questions, listen to ideas or suggestions on how to continue to build a healthier and stronger community for the LGBTQ population in the central valley. For more information please call the MoPride general number 372-3056.



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



### EORO Update

We recently had a visit from the External Quality Review Organization that is done yearly to review what we do as a county for example: Clinical practice, paperwork, policy and procedures. Cultural Competency Plan dictates us as a county how we are moving forward with our efforts and practice related to cultural competence for all BHRS to make sure we are up to date and following regulations. CCESJC is an important part of this; it is how information gets disseminated among programs. We are also able to collaborate with outside agencies. CCESJC minutes, CLAS standards and exercises that we have done this year were reviewed; along with what we are planning and our vision for the future. Our recent event that we had with Diversity Week was also discussed. Good feedback was provided to us.

### Diversity Week PowerPoint Presentation

- PowerPoint presentation was shown and discussed the different programs that participated in Diversity Week. Staff learned a lot among themselves. BHRS would like to participate in Diversity Week next year and open it up to outside agencies.
- You Tube "Did you know 2016" was referenced regarding the cultural differences in technology and the way it has changed throughout the years. Our kids are more exposed to information/technology now than before. An open discussion was sustained about how advancements in technology have influenced culture and contributed to cultural differences.

### Welcoming Environment Group Discussion

How do we provide support to our consumers? How can we be more welcoming to our consumers? Group discussion and feedback:

- Clinician standpoint - able to validate fears and anxiety helping consumers cope.
- As staff we need to work together – better understanding.
- Welcoming starts the moment consumer's call.
- Personal values –perimeter.
- There's a delicate and fine line in discussing and identifying political issues that could be affecting our clients and expressing our personal views. We need to ensure that our own views and biases are accounted for and set aside so that they don't negatively affect or interfere with the quality of care that we provide to our clients.
- We need to be aware of our own bias. If we start getting defensive we will not be able to help our consumers.

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