



Stanislaus County
Department: Behavioral Health and Recovery Services
MINUTES

Type of Meeting:	Behavioral Health Equity Committee (BHEC)	Date:	September 9, 2024
Place:	<i>New location</i> 1130 12 th Street, Room 16, Court Room	Starting Time:	11:00 am
Facilitator:	Lezzette Ervin	Ending Time:	12:00 pm
Support Staff:	Jessica Pulido		
Attendees:	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <u>Presenters</u> Lezzette Ervin </div> <div> <u>BHRS Staff</u> Mario Benavidez Dan Domeier Jessica Pulido Luz Pulido Margarita Ramos Elbra Slewoo Alma Torres Janice Zapien Stormy Zavodsky </div> <div> <u>Collaboratives and Community Based Organizations</u> Emily Beecroft Patty Davis April Gaona Virginia Linker Maria Lopez Pathana Luangrath Melissa Norvise Laura Urzua </div> <div> <u>Community Representatives</u> <u>Guests</u> Margie Johnson Stanley Bindner </div> </div>		

Order of Agenda Items	Presenter(s)	Discussion	Scheduled Actions
Welcome and Introductions	Lezzette Ervin	Lezzette called meeting to order, and introductions were made.	
Approval of Minutes	All	The August meeting minutes were approved by Janice Zapien and Stormy Zavodsky.	
Health Disparities	Lezzette Ervin	<p>Lezzette arranged for committee members to facilitate group discussions on key topics such as health disparities, the definition of culture, and the barriers and stigma surrounding them. Members discussed strategies to address and decrease disparities, acknowledging low penetration rates. The discussion emphasized innovative strategies to reduce disparities and improving the process from initial contact to treatment, particularly within the African American and Latino communities.</p> <p>Health Disparities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stigma • Racial • Ageism • Lack of knowledge • Discrimination • Economic • Transportation • Relational trust • Access • Language barriers • Gender age religion, STDs, Hep C, HIV/Aids untreated • Class structure • Cultural history of disrespect 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of access, Insurance • Waiting period for services • Need for more psychiatrist and RN's, Clinicians • Lack of diversity among providers <p>Health Disparity: "A particular type of health difference that is closely linked with social, economic, and/or environmental disadvantage. Adversely affect groups of people who have systematically experiences greater obstacles to health based on their racial or ethnic group; religion; socio-economic status; gender; age; mental health; cognitive; sensory; or physical disability; sexual orientation or gender identity; geographic location; or other characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion."</p> <p>Alma discussed the benefits of telehealth, but also highlighted the potential loss of trust between the consumers and clinicians due to a shortage of psychologists and clinicians, which may make clients uncomfortable discussing their issues.</p>	
What is Culture?	Lezzette Ervin	<p>What is Culture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who you are and what makes you different, can be ancestral • Race, ethnicity, beliefs, group • Homeless • Respect • Religion • Beliefs, values, "way of life", point of view • Inclusive • Similar interest: cars, musicians, foods, LGBTQ • Traditions handed down, keep connected heritage, mannerism, customs, sense of belonging • Establish norms • Language/communication • Practices • Family roles • Different values and way of communication • Individual beliefs, experiences • Behaviors, values, morals & beliefs • Identifies certain group of people <p>Culture: "like the DNA of human consciousness (awareness of perception of something). The fundamental values, beliefs, attitudes, customs, and traditions that provide a general design for living and a pattern for interpreting reality (nobles, 1986)."</p> <p>Cultural Competence: "a set of congruent practice skills, knowledge, behaviors, attitudes, and policies that come together in a system, agency or among consumers, providers, family members, and professionals that enables us to work effectively in cross-cultural situations."</p>	

Barriers and Stigmas	Lezzette Ervin	<p>Barriers and Stigmas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of outreach, social economic, insurance, stigma to services • Customs/traditions • Religion beliefs • Trusting the process • Language • Transportation • Shame • Work flexibility • Finances • Embarrassment • Fear • Interpret/translating • Medical clearance • Lack of knowledge of how to access services • Switching medical from one county to another • Phone access • Transportation to services • Accessibility to contact client • Distrust, criminal background, facial tattoos, stigma from health care professionals • Shame • Stigma of having a mental health diagnostic • Stigma on taking medication • Health insurance • Access to vital docs (safekeeping) 	
Cultural Competency Training, December 11-13, 2024	Lezzette Ervin	Lezzette announced a Cultural Competency training for BHRS and Collaborative Partners will take place from December 11th to 13 th , with registration for one of the three 8-hour sessions. The training is mandatory for all BHRS staff and collaborative partners to ensure compliance. Further details on registration will be shared soon.	
Community Announcements	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AFSP Mountain Mike's and Baskin-Robbins fundraiser is scheduled for September 9, 2024, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Riverbank location. • A webinar on Suicide Prevention is scheduled for September 10, 2024, at 12:00 PM in English, and September 12, 2024, at 11:00 AM in Spanish via Zoom. • The AFSP Modesto Suicide Prevention Walk flyer was distributed to members to promote and participate in the community event on September 28, 2024, at 9:00 AM. • Aegis is set up to host a community pop-up event on September 27, 2024, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. This event will offer resources to over 900 patients and foster community engagement. 	

Next Meeting: October 14, 2024 – 1130 12th Street, Room 16, Court Room, Modesto CA 95350

Reminder: The time spent on Quality Services activities can be claimed for reimbursement from enhanced funding. **All BHRS staff** are asked to code time spent in quality improvement activities and meetings on their time entry each week using organizational code **MH60211700** or **MH6501170 (for SUD)**. (Instructions are located on BHRS Intranet – QS TAB/Additional Resources). In addition, be sure to sign the sign-in sheet for these activities.

