



Cultural and Linguistic Competence Coordinators Network for State, Territorial, and Tribal Mental Health Services (CLC Coordinators' Network)

Introduction and Rationale

The growth in diversity of the nation, the persistent mental health disparities faced by diverse communities, and the awareness of the role of culture in effective mental health service delivery indicate the need for strategic planning to advance cultural and linguistic competence in state, territorial and tribal mental health systems. As mental health systems engage in transformation efforts, there is greater potential for these issues to be successfully addressed if these systems commit to intentional efforts to do so. Some states, territories, and tribal mental health organizations have established dedicated offices or personnel to promote and advance appropriate service delivery for the multicultural populations of that state, territory or tribe. These persons are faced with tremendous responsibilities, but often find themselves without the collegial support that would maximize their effectiveness. The Cultural and Linguistic Competence Coordinators' Network for State, Territorial and Tribal Mental Health Services (CLC Coordinators' Network) will serve as a community of practice for persons in these roles to address this growing need for information sharing and support.

Mission

The CLC Network will enhance the capacity of persons who function in the role of cultural and linguistic competence coordinator in their mental health system. It will provide information and resources, linkage to national and federal cultural and linguistic competence activities and resources, serve as a sounding board for solution finding, and expand their network of allies and partners to promote system transformation.

Members

Members of the network will include managers of cultural and linguistic competence, multicultural services, and other key personnel who are addressing racial and ethnic disparities in state, territorial or tribal mental health systems. This includes persons who have similar function for mental health services for children and youth if the responsibility for mental health services for children and youth is not located within the state mental health authority. The specific job titles vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, but the network is open to those for who share similar tasks and functions.

Organizers

This network or community of practice is being organized by and will be managed by the National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health and the National Center for Cultural Competence at Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development, staffed by Vivian H. Jackson, and the Multicultural Action Center of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), staffed by Majose Carrasco.

Advisory Group

The advisory group is comprised of state cultural and linguistic competence coordinators, the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, National Indian Child Welfare Association, NAMI affiliates, mental health providers, foundation representatives, and other stakeholders.

Resources

The activities of the network are conceived to be funded within the current budget parameters of the hosting organizations. At this point in time the resources available from NAMI and Georgetown include staff time, conference call capacity, email communications and postal communications. Activities such as a face to face meeting or constructed website will be considered if and when additional resources can be identified and obtained.

For more information contact:

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