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CDC Latino Focus Group Meeting

Blue Sky, April 16, 2013, 8:30am-12:30pm

Attendance:

Participant	Profession/Agency	Contact Information
1. Juan Garcia	Professor/CSU, Fresno	
2. Liliana Robles	Cultural Broker/FCNA	lrobles@fresnocenter.com
3. Elda Banuelos	LCSW/DBH – adult/urgent care	ebanuelos@co.fresno.ca.us
4. Margarita Escalante	MHC/DBH – children	
5. Rebecca Mayon	RN/Kerman Rural/DBH	rmazon@co.fresno.ca.us
6. Connie Cha	Diversity Service Coordinator/DBH	cocha@co.fresno.ca.us

The Fresno County Cultural Diversity Committee Latino Reducing Disparities Focus Group (CDC Latino Focus Group) consisted of six diverse ‘subject matter expert’ individuals either working in or with the Latino community. The purpose of the focus group is to review the strategies recommended by the California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP) and adopted its framework to highlight and consider appropriate local issues, generate core strategies and formulate preemptive objectives to reduce Latino mental health disparities in Fresno County. The enrich dialogues collectively concurrent with some of the CRDP recommended strategies applicable to local needs and work collaboratively to expand on implementation tactics for the identified areas.

The following six (6) key findings are chosen as favorable conduit for individual, community and societal access to existing and/or future programs and services and outcome evaluations:

1. Stigma associated with mental health problems;
2. Structural barriers to care;
3. Social and economic resources and living conditions;
4. Church and religious leaders;
5. Community-based organizations and co-location of services; and
6. Accountability panels.

RECOMMENDED CORE STRATEGY

Prevention and early intervention evidence-based community-defined strategies for improving mental health treatments exist at all levels of inter-agencies and individuals.

CDC Latino Focus Group selected Core Strategy 5: *Create a meaningful educational campaign that is designed to reduce stigma and exclusion and that targets individuals, families, schools, communities, and organizations and agencies at the local, regional, and statewide level.*

RECOMMENDED STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Strategic Direction 2: Community-Based Organizations and Co-Locating Services. *Increase collaboration among community-based organizations, schools, and other social service agencies by coordinating and maximizing community resources to achieve an increase in access to treatment among Latinos.*

Strategic Direction 5: Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Treatment. *The key to providing high-quality care and treatment to Latino communities lies in instilling in mental health providers and support staff the importance of communicating with each consumer in a way that acknowledges the consumer’s beliefs about mental health.*

Strategic Direction 7: Embedding the Recommendations from this Report into All MHSA Funded Programs. *To ensure Latinos and other diverse underserved communities gain proportional access to MHSA programs and services, considerations emphasizes the various subgroups without based on a “one size fits all” recipe.*

PROPOSED INTERVENTION TACTICS

CDC Latino Focus Group proposed a community-defined evidence-based intervention strategies criteria [(capacity building, awareness about mental health, community outreach, Latino access to services, meaningful practices, local adaptations for Latinos & Interventions and treatments)] as recommended by CRDP service model.

OBJECTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

To build strong inter-agency collaboration for effective mental health service through commitments of the legal, social, education and health entities, including community leaders and CBOs together as the Leadership Council in MOUs. Commitment requires permissive access, cooperation and support for achievements of the inter-agency collaboration mission. Create MOUs to develop and move feasible strategies by leveraging community resources appropriately to the Latino community.

OBJECTIVE INTRODUCTION

To create a sustainable healthy community through the collaboration of service providers and faith-based community for better service the Fresno County’s diverse populations.

ONGOING INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION WORK OBJECTIVE

Ongoing interagency collaboration of human service providers to ensure access, effective & cultural competent mental health service available for all Latino consumers in Fresno County by January 2017.

PURPOSE OF INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

- Attain community leadership to work together
- Increase mental health awareness & education
- Decrease stigma
- Decrease structural barriers
- Empower for system collaborations
- Leverage community resources
- Multicultural awareness
- Disseminate information
- Strengthening partnership
- Build consensus
- Empower sustainable healthy community

OVERALL ARCHING GOALS

- Build collaboration for effective interagency relationships to implement mental health service
- Awareness education