

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
 AMERICAN INDIAN UREP SUBCOMMITTEE
 MINUTES – Monday, July 22, 2013
 Location: United American Indian Involvement
 Los Angeles, California**

ATTENDEES: A.M. Aragon, Angelita Diaz-Akahori, Barbara Arvi, Carrie Johnson, Charlotte Lujan, Dan Dickerson, Glenda Ahhaitty, Gloria Sheppard, Larry Gasco, Mark Parra, Michelle Enfield, Melanie Cain, Robin Bueno, Ron Andrade

WELCOME, BLESSING, INTRODUCTIONS

DISCUSSIONS

ACTION STEPS

Cultural Competency Committee

Larry shared that he called into the last Cultural Competency Committee meeting. The committee asked for more clarification as to how the AI/AN UREP was different from the CCC. Nina shared some basic information but agreed to follow up with a diagram/grid for the committee

Angela will attend CCC and provide updates at AI/AN UREP

Glenda shared that there is no AI/AN representative on this committee as of now. She recommended Angela Trenado and has already confirmed with her supervisor, Sam Chan. She has also approached other community members about their interest. Committee agreed to have a regular person going to have feedback loop with UREP.

Nina will provide a diagram that explains the difference between the UREP and CCC

UREP Capacity Building Projects FY 13-14 (Nina Tayyib)

Nina shared that the AI/ANUREP can propose a capacity building project for fiscal year 13-14. The project must be a capacity building project that will benefit whole AI/AN community and have to relate to mental health.

- The AI/AN UREP will meet to discuss and develop capacity building project(s)

Each UREP is allocated \$99,000. Since the conference is one ongoing project, that allows for \$60,000 for another project. The proposal that will be approved by DMH Executive Management Team.

As of the meeting, the project needs to be completed by June 2014. There was concern regarding the limit of time and Nina will confirm if there is any flexibility in end date.

DMH WET Update (Angelita Diaz-Akahori, District Chief)

Angelita Diaz-Akahori, Division Chief of WET, passed out the updated list of WET plans/programs being offered. These programs are targeting the current and future public mental health workforce. MHSA is about bringing in UREP voices, including those of the AI/AN community.

One of the programs being developed is a recovery oriented supervision that promotes wellness, recovery and resilience; helping the supervisors understand those concepts as they are supervising staff. There are trainings occurring in all 8 service areas and they are open to both contractors and directly operated agencies.

Angelita discussed the Faith-based roundtables. They meet once a month to reach out to DMH's faith-based community partners. There is a consultant that MHSW WET pays to address the mental health issues clergy is facing with their congregants as well as DMH and how to merge and work together to promote services in that Service Area. The UREP members asked if AI/AN Traditional Healers have taken part in roundtables. There was discussion about how it may not be appropriate to have one person speak in regards to all tribes, but rather to have a representative who can discuss the topic on a broader scale.

There is also a community college partnership project where WET goes to the various Supervisory Districts and look at those community colleges that are interested in knowing more about mental health services in terms of Transformations and Recovery and Resilience. WET takes the recovery philosophy and beliefs to the community colleges. This is the second year of program which includes the following community colleges: El Camino, Torrance, Compton and College of the Canyons. UCLA recruitment was suggested and contact was provided, who go to different community colleges. WET is looking to open it up to universities but right now focused on community colleges since they have a lot less resources for mental health. ACTIVE MINDS is a student run organizations that works on OEE and DMH has partnered with them. Mental Health First Aid trainings have been offered to Compton and El Camino. Angelita shared that WET discussed with CSOC about doing a roundtable but there was not enough DMH staff to accommodate the requests. Trainings with Law Enforcement was recommended. Angelita shared that LAPD wanted "network servers" instead of trainings so that project didn't go anywhere. Glenda suggested Rio Hondo child care workers training and recommended a mental health training component to be added to the training.

Angelita shared information regarding Financial Incentive programs that are being offered through WET at the State and County level. For the financial incentive programs, one applicant cannot apply for both. Stipend students will not be approved for incentive programs. WET is targeting individuals who haven't rec'd any assistance, in an effort to be fair and reach those in most need. EMT makes the decisions regarding this so the criteria may change.

MHSW WET is paying and subsidizing individuals who need to take the license preparation program for psychologists or MFTs and social workers. Employees would have to pay about \$100 and MHSW WET would pay the remainder of the program. Open to both contractors and directly operated staff. WET will have criteria as well as priority to decide who will receive the funds. Angelita stated that the stipend is based on high need areas – veterans, older adults, bilingual language (13 threshold languages) and a 2-year commitment. An applicant will get 185 for the last year of their MSW/MFT but they have to agree to work in public mental health.

There is also a tuition reimbursement program, which focuses on positions that would be in higher demand with health care reform. This includes Psychiatric Technicians, Medical Social Workers, Nurse Practitioners, etc. This is open to directly operated DMH staff as well as contractors. DMH staff are limited to a certain number of units per semester. WET working with BOS regarding policy for DMH staff. There would be a payback commitment. A priority is finding individuals who are bilingual and/or have the capacity to serve underserved communities.

There is also a stipend program in place for DMH contracted and directly operated staff. It requires a one year

commitment of service.

Angelita shared that the State WET program (flyer was handed out) includes a loan assumption program. The application process is in place right now for fulltime applicants, who spend 50% of their time in direct services. The loan assumption program is able to pay for up to \$150,000 and is focused on specialties in mental health.

There was a discussion about recruiting AI/AN students early into mental health. WET needs to have an affiliation agreement with school in order to assist a student with a stipend. David A. Patterson at George Washington University in St Louis was recommended for WET to consult with, since they have a well-established program where they are effectively recruiting AI/AN students, particularly those on reservations.

Other WET programs that were presented include the following:

- The Interpreter Training program has been implemented. The core training is a 3-day interpreter training. There are 2 advanced trainings.
- Immersion program in recovery and resilience (3 days)
- Rehab specialist training. This has a field based and didactic components.
- Peer support training. A contractor has been selected from the RFS process and the Board Letter is in process. There will be three different types of trainings available.
- The Health Navigator training is also taking place. WET is working with Peer Advocates, Community Workers and Medical Case Workers to be able to get trained on how to link mental health clients with health services.
- There is a recovery based internship program that is being considered for development. This would include opportunities for junior high students.

System Leadership Team Update

No update

- SLT representative position will be discussed at the next UREP meeting

Announcements/Adjournment

None

Next Meeting to be scheduled