

Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC)

Eastern-European & Middle Eastern Population Sub-Committee

Date: 7/13/2016 Time: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Present: Anna Yaralyan, Sarkis Simonian, Arsineh Ararat, Mirtala Parada Ward, Mastaneh Moghadam, George Gharibian, Emma Oshagan, Heather Laird, Kim Su, Juan Mata, Mira Kim

Agenda Items	Comments/Discussion/Recommendations/Conclusions
I. Introductions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Introduction of Members
II. Meeting Minutes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Anna Yaralyan informed EE/ME subcommittee members that the Meeting Minutes from June 15, 2016 and July 13, 2016 will be reviewed and approved during next EE/ME meeting.
III. Presentation - UsCC Graduate Recruitment Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Anna Yaralyan informed EE/ME sub-committee members that there will be a presentation by Kim Su, Juan Mata, Mira Kim from LACDMH Workforce Education and Training (WET) Division. The purpose of the presentation will be to inform the EE/ME subcommittee about the Graduate Recruitment Program for Underserved Cultural Communities.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• LACDMH Workforce Education and Training Division presented the following information about the Graduate Recruitment Program:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Option 1, Internship and Graduate Program.▪ Option 2, Graduate Program.• Option 1, Internship and Graduate Program includes the following information:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Program Component:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Year 1: Paid Student Internship at assigned contract agency○ Year 2 & 3: a Graduate Program.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Social Work with a clinical concentration➤ Marriage and Family Therapy➤ Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor. ❖ Stipend:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ \$20,000 for 1 year internship in assigned contract agency. Up to \$37,000 for 2 years in master's program. ❖ Eligibility Priority:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Individual must have Baccalaureate degree in any field and plan to pursue graduate degree in social work with a clinical concentration, marriage and family therapy, or licensed professional clinical counselor.○ Individual does not have social service experience and internship experience would promote transition and success in graduate program in mental health.○ Bilingual capability in one of the languages that has been identified by DMH as underserved and/or represents an unserved/underserved community as identified by DMH.○ Priority will be given to those meeting the following: Lived experience as a consumer or family member in the mental health system. ❖ Service Obligation:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Individual agrees to work as Paid Student Intern in assigned contract agency for 1 year providing direct clinical services to unserved/underserved communities at least 24 hours per week for 1
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> year. ○ Provide DMH proof of acceptance to an accredited graduate program in social work with a clinical concentration, marriage and family therapy, or licensed professional clinical counselor prior to completing 1 year internship. ○ Complete accredited graduate program in social work with a clinical concentration, marriage and family therapy, or licensed professional clinical counselor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 2, Graduate Program includes the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Stipend: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Up to \$37,000 for 2 years in master’s program. ❖ Eligibility Priority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Individual must have Baccalaureate degree in any field and plan to pursue graduate degree in social work with a clinical concentration, marriage and family therapy, or licensed professional clinical counselor. ○ Individual has experience working in community organization that has had DMH affiliation (e.g. in the capacity of PEI/UsCC services) which has prepared the individual for graduate program in mental health. ○ Bilingual capability in one of the languages that have been identified by DMH as underserved and/or represent an unserved/underserved community as identified by DMH. ○ Priority will be given to those with lived experience as a consumer or family member in the mental health system.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Service Obligation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide DMH proof of acceptance to an accredited graduate program in social work with a clinical concentration, marriage and family therapy, or licensed professional clinical counselor within 1 year of acceptance into the UsCC Graduate Recruitment Program. ○ Complete accredited graduate program in social work with a clinical concentration, marriage and family therapy, or licensed professional clinical counselor. ○ Within 3 months post-graduation from master’s program, individual must find employment in outpatient program within Public Mental Health System and agree to payback commitment of 2 years providing full-time (40 hours per week or equivalent) direct clinical services to unserved/underserved communities. - Emma Oshagan asked within how many months of graduation do graduates must find employment. - Kim Su from the WET Financial Incentives Program reiterated that within 3 months post-graduation from master’s program, individual must find employment, however, if they haven’t been able to find it, he/she can inform WET division and they can assist with job placement. - Mirtala Parada Ward reported that within the underserved cultural communities, there is a need for bilingual mental health workers. This includes Latino and Asian Pacific Islander groups. - Emma reported that the Muslim Community is underserved as well. When she has an Arabic client in her private practice she does not know where to refer him/her. - As a new member of the EE/ME group, Heather Laird introduced herself and discussed her education and work experience in Mental Health. She also talked about her extensive experience working with the Arabic speaking community and providing
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Mental Health education and stigma reduction outreach. Heather also reported that due to Islamophobia, many people are also afraid of working with Muslim therapists. In her clinical work, she encountered certain clients who refused to work with Muslim therapists due to them wearing Hijab.

- Kim Su discussed the application process and requirements for the Graduate Recruitment Program. The application for this program will be posted, filled out and submitted online. The application will include a personal statement and three letters of reference. The highest scoring applicants within each group will be interviewed by a committee, which includes a representative from each Underserved Cultural Communities group. Each applicant will be scored, and the highest scoring applicants will be awarded. Selected applicants will be called for an orientation.
- Emma Oshagan and Anna Yaralyan inquired about funding for Doctorate students in Psychology stipend program.
- Juan Mata from the WET Financial Incentives Program responded that acquiring Doctorate Degree in Psychology takes up to 5 years and this much funding at LACDMH WET division is currently unavailable. Funds are limited to 2 – 3 year Masters level graduate programs.
- Emma Oshagan added that there is a need for Doctorate Level clinicians, especially to work with severely mentally ill population.
- Arsineh Ararat inquired about student loan reimbursement programs at LACDMH.
- Juan Mata responded that psychiatry students with a specialty will receive loan reimbursement of up to \$150,000, such as child psychiatrist who will work at identified hard to fill areas. Standard psychiatry students will receive \$100,000. Social Workers, Marriage and Family therapists and Psychologists maybe eligible to receive up to \$20,000. Community workers who wish to be substance abuse counselors will be eligible for this program as well.

- Emma Oshagan stated that there is a great need in underserved communities for substance abuse counselors.
- Juan Mata added that after receiving the funding of \$20,000, students will be required to work maximum of 1 year at LACDMH.
- Mirtala Parada Ward reported that in order to qualify for the LACDMH loan reimbursement program, individuals must provide direct services, instead of working in an administrative setting.
- Mirtala inquired what may occur if there are applicants who are from Farsi and Armenian speaking communities. How this would this be prioritized.
- Mira Kim responded that in general, first priority will be given to consumers with lived experience or family members of the consumers. Second priority will be given to people with clinical backgrounds. The rest of the selection process will depend on their personal statements, application, references, and the interview.
- Heather Laird inquired if EE/ME members will be part of the selection process as well.
- Mirtala Parada Ward stated that one member of the EE/ME team will be part of the scoring process, most of the scoring process stays within LACDMH, stakeholder impute is necessary and valuable.
- George Gharibian inquired if there is a Website for individuals to acquire information about the WET Graduate Recruitment Program.
- Juan Mata reported that currently a Website is not available, but once it is created, they will inform all UsCC subgroups.
- George Gharibian inquired what may occur if after graduation the individual is unable to find employment within 3 months post-graduation.

IV. Next Meeting

- Kim Su responded that documentation will be required to see an individual's effort in applying for employment at directly operated or LACDMH contracted agencies.
- Juan Mata reported that if individuals have issues securing employment, this can be discussed and accommodations will be made on a case by case basis.
- Mirtala stated that in preparing for the application process, it would be good for EE/ME members to help recruit and identify possible recipients of this program. The reason this is encouraged is because there is a great need in the underserved cultural communities for bilingual and bicultural mental health professionals.
- Heather Laird agreed with Mirtala and reported that in her work, she has seen a need for cultural and language diversity and understanding of different ethnic and religious backgrounds; this is where people are headed in the mental health field.
- Mirtala added that this program is important for the underserved populations, as a result the recruitment process must show positive outcomes otherwise funds may be discontinued.
- EE/ME sub-committee members thanked the WET division for the informative presentation and expressed that the Internship and Graduate Program will be effective for students who may be interested in Multicultural Community Mental Health.
- EE/ME subcommittee decided that the next quarterly meeting date and time will be set.....

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