

FACT SHEET ON THE CALIFORNIA MHSA MULTICULTURAL COALITION (The CMMC)

I. Origins of the CMMC

The California MHSA Multicultural Coalition – the CMMC – was outlined in RFP #1 of the California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP). In 2010, the Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition (REMHDCO) was awarded the contract by the California Department of Mental Health for RFP#1. Please see the Fact Sheet on the California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP) that is also enclosed.

The CMMC will be a new structure to bring forward diverse multicultural perspectives that have not been adequately represented in the mental health system or in previous efforts to obtain consumer and family member input. The CMMC will be pivotal in providing critical insights and assessments of systems, e.g., policies, procedures, and service plans, in moving toward a more culturally and linguistically competent system.

II. Purpose of the CMMC

The CMMC has a number of purposes but its primary goal will be to work toward the integration of cultural and linguistic competence into the public mental health system. Another major objective of the CMMC will be to coordinate and support the work of the five Strategic Planning Workgroups (SPWs) of the CRDP.

The CMMC and the SPW's will work together with the Facilitator/Writer to produce a comprehensive statewide strategic plan to identify new approaches toward the reduction of disparities. This strategic plan will be the basis for the Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Statewide Project on Reducing Disparities, one of five PEI Statewide Projects under the Mental Health Services Act.

The CMMC will also be responsible for an Emerging Leaders Mentorship program and will be assessing the implementation of the MHSA particularly in regards to cultural competence and reducing disparities.

III. Membership of the CMMC

There will be 30 non-government employee members who will come from:

- Community based organizations (CBOs) with expertise working with multicultural communities.
- Providers working with underserved populations and those reaching out to unserved populations.
- Community leaders/members from diverse communities, including representation across the lifespan within these communities.
- Consumers and family members with diverse racial, ethnic, linguistic, and cultural backgrounds. This group shall include members from racially, ethnically, and culturally diverse consumer and family members populations not previously served in the mental health system (i.e., parents of children in special education, child welfare, criminal and juvenile justice, probation, migrant education, etc.)
- Different geographic locations in California including both urban and rural areas of the state.
- Systems other than mental health (e.g. education, corrections, social services, child welfare, probation, veterans, other disabilities)
- There must be inclusion of ethnic and racial communities in addition to the five population groups targeted by the SPW's that are cross or multi-ethnic such as: faith-based groups, immigrant and refugee communities, non-English speaking communities, Middle Eastern communities, victims of torture, veterans, other disability communities, etc.

The members of the CMMC will be chosen by an eleven member Transition Team. The Transition Team is a diverse group of individuals selected by the REMHDCO Steering Committee and each of the five SPW's.