

## Eliminating Mental Health Disparities External Workgroup

**Date** December 6, 2007  
**Time** 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm EST

<b>Participants</b>	<p><u>External Workgroup</u>: Jami Bartgis, Teresa Chapa, Donald Clark, Jesse Herrera, Carrie Johnson, Joe Powell, Lenora Reid-Rose, Yvonne Smith</p> <p><u>Afya, Inc.</u>: Lola Oguntomilade</p> <p><u>Vanguard</u>: Brenda Foster, Erin Turner</p> <p><u>CMHS</u>: Thomas Arthur, Gary Blau, Trina Dutta, Sylvia Fisher, Karen Francis, Teri Price, Susan Stromberg, Kristin Williams</p> <p><u>HumRRO</u>: Collie Brown, Carolyn Lowery, Roger Morrell</p>
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### Conference Call Summary

#### Update on the Steering Committee

The Steering Committee identified three ad hoc committees that will focus on specific areas of focus. Each ad hoc committee has a point of contact and they are working on recruiting External Workgroup members into their respective committees. Below is the ad hoc committee list, its chair/liaison, and its purpose:

1. Policy Committee

Chair: Princess Katana with assistance from Vivian Jackson

This committee will focus on policy issues related to eliminating mental health disparities. A primary focus of this committee will be to provide feedback for the Policy Summit, which will be a new task in the Management Plan.

2. Consumer Affairs Committee

Liaison: Jacki McKinney

This committee will focus on consumer issues related to eliminating mental health disparities. Jacki McKinney will relay the “voice” of different consumer groups to the Steering Committee and the External Workgroup.

When talking about consumer affairs, it is especially important to consider that there are many definitions for cultural competence, and to think about in the broadest sense.

3. Workforce Development Committee

Liaison: DJ Ida

This committee will focus on workforce development issues related to eliminating mental health disparities. DJ will relay information about various activities regarding workforce development, including findings from organizations like the Annapolis Coalition.

### **AFYA, Inc. and Continuation of the Disparities Initiative**

There is commitment from CMHS to continue working to eliminate disparities in mental health.

A request for contract (RFC) was put out earlier this year, and after several high-quality proposals were reviewed, AFYA, Inc (Afy means “health” in Swahili) was awarded the contract, with collaboration from HumRRO and Mental Health America (MHA). This will allow us continue work in this area, with the External Workgroup and with current subcontracts.

Some of the tasks that HumRRO is currently undertaking will be continued with AFYA, Inc. once HumRRO has completed the terms of their contract.

HumRRO will transition work with the External Workgroup after the May 2008 Meeting.

### **Introduction of Thomas E. Arthur**

Work under AFYA, Inc. has already begun, including the hiring of someone full-time at CMHS as a multi-cultural affairs specialist. Thomas E. Arthur began working at CMHS in this role at the beginning of December 2007. He has many years of experience working with cultural competence.

### **Logic Model**

The logic model was revised based on the feedback provided from the External Workgroup during the May 2007 meeting. It went through extensive review through the Steering Committee and an ad hoc committee, and was sent to the External Workgroup for feedback.

The logic model is a working document that will be used to guide activities for the EMHD Initiative.

It was noted that there are many consumer issues that have not been addressed, such as using Pastoral Services, because consumers are not invited to the table and/or aware of forums to get their “voice” heard. For reasons like this, it is particularly important for the External Workgroup to provide feedback on the logic model.

### **Next External Workgroup Meeting**

The next External Workgroup Meeting will be held on May 19-20, 2008 at SAMHSA in Rockville, MD.

The Steering Committee, along with HumRRO and CMHS will be receiving feedback regarding the outcomes and objectives of this meeting from the External and Internal Workgroups.

A preliminary draft agenda has been sent to the External Workgroup for review and so that they can see in what direction we are headed with the meeting. Logistical information will be sent later.

There was discussion about how to measure if the meeting is culturally competent, beyond looking at the outcomes (what does it actually look like?). The Steering Committee will look at how this meeting will be measured in a way that it shows that it actually makes change. The next step would be to consider how this information is disseminated.

### **Brief Updates**

- A trauma in-service was held at SAMHSA, which was largely attended by SAMHSA staff. There were representatives from many communities who spoke on this issue and how it affects them.
- A website is still being developed that will be used to disseminate data and other information related to eliminating mental health disparities. This site will have direct links to SAMHSA and it was suggested that the site also have a link to the Office of Minority Health (OMH). This could help facilitate a relationship between CMHS and OMH.
- Once the Policy Summit task is submitted to OPM, we will begin the application process for the States.
- Vanguard has developed the Native American Culture Card that will be used by Federal employees who work with Native American populations. Vanguard will also be working on social marketing activities for Children's Mental Health Awareness Day 2008.
- Sebastian Lantos, who provides translation services, is working to translate a SMAHSA recovery brochure into Spanish.
- University of Colorado at Denver has developed a final draft of the outline and storyboard for the Resource Guide, which was distributed to the Steering Committee for review. A November meeting in Wyoming was convened to begin developing the scope of the service demonstration project for Native American Veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder on the Wind River Reservation.
- University of Florida is working to expand the workforce of color by completing the implementation of an online graduate certificate program and by outreaching to HBCUs to market and provide access to the certificate program.

### **Next Call**

\*The Next External Workgroup Call will be held in February 2008.\*