

ELIMINATING MENTAL HEALTH DISPARITIES (EMHD) EXTERNAL WORKGROUP

Conference call
May 14, 2010 at 13:00 hrs EST.

Follow-up on External Workgroup face to face meeting action item-

EMHD project director reported on progress made towards the development of the External Workgroup meeting report. Upon approval by Dr. Blau, the report will be posted on the EMHD Website.

Update on the EMHD Website development-

EMHD Project director reported that the contract with the National Alliance for Multi-ethnic Behavioral Health Association (NAMBHA) to host the EMHD Website that has been renewed. With the goal of keeping the Website useful and dynamic, project director asked External Workgroup members to share their thoughts regarding what would be useful, interesting and fun to have on the Website, and to contribute pieces they'd like to share.

External Workgroup members' participation and contributions to the EMHD Newsletter-

On a similar note, the EMHD Team is planning a second edition of the EMHD newsletter. The idea is that the newsletter highlighting what the External Workgroup is working on could be broadly distributed by members to their contacts, letting them know that the EMHD initiative is something they are involved in, and encouraging others to learn more about the efforts through the Website. EMHD External Workgroup members were asked to contribute brief articles that highlight or support the work of the committees and/or their members.

EMHD presence at the Georgetown University Training Institute-

The EMHD Team submitted for consideration, a proposal to hold a poster session at the upcoming Georgetown University Training Institutes to be held in Washington D.C. in July of 2010. The proposal entitled: "Toward Eliminating Mental Health Disparities: The Role of Consumers and Families" was accepted and will be presented on the evening of July 16th. EMHD Project director explained that the Training Institutes present a unique opportunity to reach the over 2000 attendees from across the Nation who come together to learn and network.

The Training Institutes Poster Session could be an excellent venue to distribute the EMHD Newsletter (in an EMHD folder) branding the initiative and sparking the interest of attendees in our work.

Progress toward the 2010 Leadership Academy-

The EMHD Team has been meeting with partners from Georgetown University to continue planning for the 2010 Leadership Academy to Address Disparities in Mental Health Care. The event will be held August 30 - September 2, 2010. EMHD project

director explained that the application for participation will continue to be available on line until May 23rd at

<http://gucchdtcenter.georgetown.edu/Activities/LeadershipAcademy/Application.html>

External Workgroup members were encouraged to consider completing an application to participate and/or sharing the information and link with other for whom they believe this would be a good opportunity.

Cultural and Linguistic Competence Liaison activities-

Project director reported that Lola Oguntomilade, a very knowledgeable and skilled member of the EMHD team is now devoting two days per week to her role as EMHD Cultural and Linguistic Competence Liaison for the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS). The focus has been on furthering the recommendations that emerged from the Organizational Assessment that CMHS undertook earlier this fiscal year.