

Jan 2016 Western Region Multicultural Committee Update

Nov 18, 2015 WNY Field Office held the first WNY RMAC with the initial group of 8 individuals. Diverse representation of this group was gathered from WNY Finger lakes DCS, Native American Community Services of WNY, WNY Children's Psychiatric Center, Families' Child Advocacy Network of WNY, WNY Independent Living (Mental Health Peer), local Article 28 hospital, Coordinated Care Services, and a local mental health agency. We will also be looking to add membership from Compeer, Mental Hygiene Association and NAMI.

Frances Priester Moss of OMH BCC presented on SMAC and RMAC background together with Liz Haley of OMH WNY Field Office in attempt to provide guidance on RMAC, enroll membership, get feedback for potential needs and agendas to move forward. This group is currently invested in mental health needs of Native Americans, refugees, families and children for starters but are interested in learning more about the needs of local and regional communities.

Next steps for this group:

1. Gather and summaries regional mental health needs assessment information and identify cultural disparities within that via WNY CHNA and review of Local Service Plans
2. Identify interested people in Compeer, MHA and NAMI to join RMAC
3. Schedule next RMAC meeting for February 2016 (TBA)