

Lower Hudson Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC)

Minutes – Wednesday, September 24, 2014

Present: Jean Williams, Christina Eisenberg, Damon Bacote, Jaconia Vinson, Adam Black, Kamla Deoki, Shellese Dixon, Kelly Anne Lonergan, Sabrina Johnson, Karen Blumenthal, Jeremy Reuling, and Jeffrey Zitofsky

The Lower Hudson September MAC meeting took place on Wednesday, September 24 at the Mount Vernon Public Library, Mount Vernon, New York. Damon Bacote, FSW and Jean Williams, FSW introduced and welcomed Christina Eisenberg, WILC as the newest and the third co-chair of Lower Hudson MAC. Christina is not new to MAC, and has been involved in all MAC activities to date.

This was MAC's first meeting after the Summer. The agenda focused on reviewing the accomplishments of Lower Hudson MAC thus far, and introducing the guest speaker Karen Blumenthal from Student Advocacy, Elmsford, New York.

Accomplishments of 2014 included: Completing the draft of the Consumer Survey in English. The next steps include follow up with the connection Frances Priester has made for MAC to meet with the Field Office. Co-Chairs: Damon Bacote, Christina Eisenberg, and Jean Williams plan to schedule meeting with Field Office and present the MAC's survey. Purpose of presentation is to establish a relationship between MAC and the Field Office as well as advocate for use of survey with county providers; and to see if the Field Office is able to help in implementation of survey through its website. Future goal is to have survey available in Spanish.

In addition to completion of the Survey, the MAC hosted Frances Priester on June 19 to a full day (two workshops) of the Spirituality Workshop. The workshop was advertised throughout Westchester County, and was attended by providers and consumers who either work or live in Westchester County.

The workshops were presented one in morning and one in the afternoon. A total of 40 people attended the two workshops. Feedback was positive, and attendees asked for more workshops of this nature.

Karen Blumenthal, Student Advocacy, Elmsford, New York was the guest speaker. Her presentation was on Student Advocacy's "Solutions not Suspensions." Karen highlighted challenges of out of school suspensions; alternatives to outside suspensions; and demonstrations of how some communities have creatively disciplined students without taking them out of school. Topic was relative to MAC's concern about disparities in populations we (collectively) serve.