



Minutes, February 5, 2015, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

New York City Regional Multicultural Advisory Committee Meeting of the New York State Office of Mental Health Bureau of Cultural Competency

New York City Field Office of New York State Office of Mental Health, 330 Fifth Avenue, Ninth Floor, New York City

*The purpose of the New York City Office of Mental Health (OMH) Regional Multicultural Advisory Committee is to provide stakeholder input to the New York State Office of Mental Health and its Bureau of Cultural Competency on issues, challenges and opportunities within multicultural behavioral health care, including disparities and best practices, with an emphasis on proposing solutions rather than merely identifying problems. All stakeholders are welcome to attend.*

Christian Huygen and Bert Coffman, co-chairs  
Frances Priester Moss, New York State OMH Bureau of Cultural Competency

Minutes taken by Christian Huygen [christianhuygen@rainbowheights.org](mailto:christianhuygen@rainbowheights.org)

1. Introductions – Christian and Bert introduced themselves
2. Go around: people introduced themselves and briefly stated what brought them here today.
3. Christian described the Bureau of Cultural Competency, the statewide Multicultural Advisory Committee, and the Regional MACs
4. Somjen Frazer, a consultant with Strength in Numbers Consulting, gave a brief description of the current statewide assessment she is conducting of the health and human service needs of Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) New Yorkers. She asked about what current and emerging needs we are seeing, as well as opportunities. We had a very good 15 minute discussion. Anyone interested in having a follow up conversation with her can contact her at [sfrazer@strengthinnumbersconsulting.com](mailto:sfrazer@strengthinnumbersconsulting.com).
  - a. The [2009 LGBT Health and Human Services Needs Assessment \(New York State\) as well as the 2010 Blueprint](#) for meeting those needs both of which Somjen also coordinated and produced.
5. We viewed and discussed the Bureau of Cultural Competence (BCC) webinar “Bridging Cultural Distance with Interpreters.” The presentation was helpful and brought up a number of questions
  - a. What are current OMH policies and guidelines about interpretation, especially at small agencies?

- b. What are the criteria for an adequately skilled interpreter, including an adequately skilled interpreter of American Sign Language (ASL)?
  - c. How are small agencies to meet the challenge of paying for interpretation services? Are OMH funds or resources available?
  - d. The [Joint Commission Roadmap for Hospitals on Advancing Effective Communication, Cultural Competence, and Patient- and Family-Centered Care](#) which gives extensive requirements and guidelines for interpretation and other issues – if your agency is audited by Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), it's the bible, and you can use it to explain to your administrators what is required.
6. Discussion of topics of interest to participants and selection of next meeting's topic
  - a. At the May 14 meeting we will view *Adapting treatment for culturally diverse youth*, an 80 minute webinar.
  - b. We voiced strong interest in learning about the mental health needs of veterans, including trauma, homelessness, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and women's experiences and issues, at the August 13 meeting. We would like to identify resources or webinars – please let us know if you are aware of any.
  - c. You can locate on-demand webinars for your own or your staff's viewing by googling "OMH BCC webinar".
7. Next meeting dates: 5/14/15, 8/13/15, 11/12/15. All meetings will be held at 330 Fifth Avenue, Ninth Floor. We are very grateful for the NYC Field Office's hospitality, and Audio/Visual (A/V) assistance so that we could view and hear the webinar.
8. The NYC RMAC ratified Christian Huygen and Bert Coffman as co-chairs of the meeting.
9. The list of people who attended is attached.
10. The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.