

Minutes

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

Thursday, August 20, 10 AM – 12:30 PM

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

Present: Co-chairs Christian Huygen and Bert Coffman; Enid Lugo, Katherine Penn, Constance Brown-Bellamy, and Suzanne Stoute.

1. Go around: People introduced themselves and briefly stated what brought them here today.
2. Review and approval of minutes from May 2015 meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.
3. We discussed the invitation extended by NYS OMH to 4-5 members of each regional MAC to attend the December Statewide MAC meeting December 14, 2015 in Albany. Of the six people present, two (Bert and Christian) are already members of the SMAC, and the remaining four (Enid Lugo, Katherine Penn, Constance Brown-Bellamy, and Suzanne Stoute) have been participating consistently in the NYC RMAC and would make excellent participants in this meeting. All agreed to attend (with Katherine doing so on a tentative basis). Stakeholder issues of interest to us include treatment engagement and treatment refusal; managed care implementation; care coordination for those who are severely ill or incapacitated; and understanding upstate and downstate perspectives and the ways in which these may not always translate or transfer well to different contexts and settings within the state.
4. We viewed part of the webinar *The New Warrior: Combat Stress and Wellness* on PTSD in veterans. We also viewed portions of the following videos: Hope for Recovery, a video about Theater of War, and a video about Trauma Exposure, PTSD and Violence.
 - a. We had a discussion of issues and questions brought up by the webinar including supports, formal and informal, available and unavailable, for veterans and their families, and the need to provide supports and services to assist veterans who are transitioning out of combat and into civilian life. We gained multiple perspectives on complex trauma from viewing these videos and from our discussion.
5. Discussion and selection of webinar(s) for upcoming meeting(s). We are interested in learning about understanding Islam, Hinduism, and African religions and cultures, as well as how to respond in an affirming and culturally supportive way, and respectfully invite discussion of people's backgrounds.
 - a. Possible resources: this webinar <https://acp.adobeconnect.com/a946482050/p5d859y1ig4/> on Islam and Caring for the Muslim Patient (the webinar is for pharmacists, but it contains the content we are interested in learning about)

- b. This article
<http://isites.harvard.edu/fs/docs/icb.topic551849.files/Ali%20Liu%20and%20Humedian.pdf> from the journal Professional Psychology on “Islam 101: Understanding the Religion, and Therapy Implications”
 - c. If you are aware of other resources please let us know.
6. Next meeting date: 11/12/15
 7. Adjournment at 12:30 pm