



## Western New York Field Office

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Governor

ANN MARIE T. SULLIVAN, M.D.  
Commissioner

CHRISTINA DOHERTY SMITH, M.P.A.  
Director

### Regional Multicultural Advisory Committee June 16, 2016 meeting summary 9:30a.m.- 12:00p.m.

**Present:** Guest presenter Oscar Jimenez-Solomon (NYSPI); M. Kelley; A. Lewis; C. Lunsford; J. Ambrose; N. Morris; P. Hill; V. McCarthy; L. Haley; F. Priester-Moss (by phone)

- Background on two cultural competence Centers: Nathan Klein Institute and NYS Psychiatric Institute both providing research and initiatives to reduce disparities in NYS. (See Attached)
- Go around/ introductions
- WNY Independent Living has joined RMAC- Tia Lewis will be joining RMAC. WNYIL partnered with NYS Psychiatric Institute Center of Excellence for Cultural Competence to conduct a Financial Wellness Survey to 121 people with mental health conditions.
- Pete: Announcement for NACS, “All Our Relations” project. The project is aimed at improving the wellbeing of Native community members & friends, increasing access to needed services, and improving the cultural competencies for entities working with and/or serving Native Americans. We have four positions to hire for: Community Engagement Specialists (2, both part-time), Case Manager (full-time), and a Cultural Events Planner (F/T).  
An important aspect of this program is offering technical assistance and trainings in various cultural competency areas, including working with Native Americans as well as generally working with diverse communities. Evaluation of all aspects is another key aspect of the new program.
- Oscar gave a Structural Competence overview with discussion: A systems perspective on Socio/environmental determinants of health.
- Bulk of this meeting Oscar discussed one of NYSPI initiatives: Policy and Social Determinants of Mental Health. Oscar and WNYIL staff (Tia/ Moira) reviewed preliminary survey findings in Buffalo, NY (121 surveys). The survey is Financial Wellness: Developing a Peer-Supported Economic Empowerment Model.

**Preliminary results- not to be shared outside of this group (SEE ATTACHED)**

\*Recommendation of RMAC as steering committee to support the process.

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- Language Access: Oscar briefly reviewed recent survey of 130 state operated programs divided by region. He noted most upstate region (WNY) has lowest ratings for using proper language access, i.e. interpreters. Discussed a few potential barriers- more difficulty accessing, fiscal responsibility, etc.
- Next Meeting: Monthly set meetings to be scheduled by email.

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