



DIVERSITY & EQUITY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: January 28, 2019

Start Time: 6:00 PM

End Time: 7:00 PM

Location of This Meeting: Regional Center of the East Bay

500 Davis Street, San Leandro

1320 Willow Pass Road, Concord

ATTENDEES:

Staff Present: Lisa Kleinbub, Jairo Guiza, Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, Edda Banuelos, Sandra Coss, Ronke Sodipo, Ineko Ito, Chris Hansen

Guests: Anna Wang, Sister Marygrace, Sheraden Nicholau, Esther Wong, Esther Chow, Arthur Lipscomb, Nicole Manzana, and Patricia Albeno

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

n/a

NEW SERVICES UPDATES

Sandra Coss reported that a Christmas celebration called la Posada, was hosted by the Disparity Funds Program of La Familia Counseling Services where two hundred people attended. Sandra also reported that support groups continue meeting regularly once a month.

Esther Chow informed all that Helping Hands East Bay, with support from RCEB staff hosted a Christmas celebration on Dec. 8th at Garfield School in Oakland where around 200 individuals were present. Another celebration was held on Dec. 9th for families who speak Tagalog. The event was held at "The Way of the Elders" facility, thanks to Sister Marygrace generosity who runs that program.

Sister Marygrace advised on challenges her Day Program is having regarding transportation for adult field trips. As an example, BART may not always be a safe means of transportation because often individuals with developmental disabilities are bullied or annoyed by some passengers. This is even more disappointing because the purpose of the fieldtrip among other things is to help Mien speaking consumers become more confident in using the transportation system. Sheredan recommended to send a letter to the BART Board complaining about these incidents so that they can address the issue. A report can also be filed via phone call or email.

Esther Chow reported currently having no issues with her Day Program. Esther states that during

the day, it's not always safe to travel by BART because the number of passengers is very small. Esther recommends to download the BART watch app.

SUPPORT GROUPS SUMMARY – Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez/Sister Marygrace Puchac

Elvia: Supervisors participated in 2 support groups meetings; one group hosted by FRN and the other by Valesca Santos at RCEB-San Leandro.

Ian Mendoza, a supervisor in Concord, recently appointed a Tagalog speaking staff to reach out to Tagalog speaking families. The staff member will start meeting with families in Contra Costa County. Then she'll expand her reach to Alameda County.

Sister Marygrace: Madres Unidas continues their monthly meeting the second Tuesday of the month. Sylvia Ornellas recruits speakers for the group, including Head Start staff. Sister Marygrace appreciates the opportunity these mothers have to express their emotions through laughter and crying.

Esther Chow: Three father support groups continue to meet regularly. The groups are organized by language: Vietnamese, Cantonese, and Tagalog.

Esther also requested that information at Living Options workshop in April be provided for Cantonese and Vietnamese families. Chris Hansen responded that she'll work with Esther to include these populations.

DIVERSITY & EQUITY SPECIALIST SUMMARY – Jairo Guiza

In order to implement the concepts discussed during a cultural competence training last year where Executive Directors and Cultural Specialists from all regional centers participated, we will revise this committee's mission statement.

During the training, facilitated by staff from Georgetown University, it became clear that our focus must be to identify ways to address the cultural and linguistic needs of the populations we serve. Our Mission statement should specifically mention this emphasis.

In order to create a common language to revise our mission statement, Jairo distributed a word game. The goal of the game was to match words with the correct definition. The ten words (expressions) are: 1. Cultural Competence. 2. Culture Humility. 3. Culture. 4 Disparities. 5. Diversity. 6. Equality. 7. Equity. 8. Ethnicity. 9. Inclusion. 10. Linguistic Competence. 11. Literacy. 12. Race

The game provided an opportunity to clarify concepts and familiarity with a language that we will use when deciding on our revised mission statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER

Anna Wang informed all that Friends of Children with Special needs will host a New Lunar Year Celebration on February 23, 2019. The celebration includes sharing POS data presented by Lisa and Jairo as well as opportunity to listen to consumers and families' feedback on the data shared.

Anna also announced that 5 finalists were chosen from participants in the Talent Showcase at FCSN. The final competition will be held on March 23, 2019 at Santa Clara Convention Center Theatre.

Elvia reported that Congreso Familiar's planning committee will start the planning process for this year's Contra Costa conference this Friday, February 1st in Oakley. The event will be held on April 27th in Oakley.

Next Meeting:

Monday, February 25, 2019 at 6:00pm

- San Leandro
- Concord