



**CULTURAL & LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE
TECHNICAL RESOURCE GROUP
February 20, 2008
Los Angeles, California**

Minutes

Attendees: Chair, Linford Gayle

Committee Members: Kelvin Lee, Jo Ann Johnson, Stacie Hiramoto, Arnulfo Medina, Richard Van Horn, Nancy Carter, Zula Reeves

OAC Staff: Earl Green, Sheri Whitt, Marsha Tagawa, Beverly Whitcomb

Teleconference Participant(s): Ron King for Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola, (Dr. Aguilar-Gaxiola joined the meeting in progress), Steven from Roseville (did not leave a last name) public participant

Minutes: The minutes of the January 23, 2008 CLCTRG meeting were approved as written. Kelvin Lee, past co-Chair acknowledged MHSOAC staff Marsha Tagawa for her work on the minutes and that he appreciated the formatting and clarity.

Discussion Topic:

Chair and co-Chair positions

Highlights of discussion:

- CLCTRG Chair and co-Chair positions were discussed. Currently, Linford Gayle is the Chairperson. The co-Chair position is vacant. Per discussion, the Chair and co-Chair positions must be Commissioners.
- The question was raised as to whether the Chair of the MHSOAC can also be the Chair of the CLCTRG.

Next Steps:

- Sheri Whitt, Executive Director of MHSOAC stated that this will be discussed further at the March 27th and 28th MHSOAC meeting in Palm Springs.

Person Assigned:

- Sheri Whitt

Membership Recruitment

Highlights of discussion:

- Membership and recruitment for membership on the CLCTRG was discussed. Names of initial/current members were identified and whether they represented a targeted group, other organizations, CBO's, individuals, client/family members, educational institutions, etc.
- The TRG's may have up to 15 members including Chair and co-Chair. The CLCTRG identified 13 initial members including the Chair and co-Chair and other Commissioners.

Therefore, the CLCTRG has two possible vacancies, one Commissioner co-Chair vacancy and one TRG member vacancy.

- The TRG membership application form was discussed with several questions and/or concerns raised relative to the appropriateness of some of the questions.
- **Page 1:** It was recommended that DMH Legal review the application form and provide advice or suggested wording to make the application more appropriate.
- **Page 2:** #1 - What motivated you to apply for this position? Suggestion made to limit this section to 250 words. Some may see the 250 word limit as a requirement to write at least 250 words. Kelvin Lee was going to provide further clarification on this issue. Also, #4 – Nancy Carter suggested adding “Training” to the mix.
- **Page 3:** #5 – “...Please describe your qualifications and/or experience in this area.” Suggestion was made to include racial, ethnic or cultural group or groups do you identify with?
- Suggestion was made to include asking what other skill sets other than language and experiences, etc., do you bring? Jo Ann Johnson suggested adding a checklist of skill sets and bi-racial skill sets.

Next Steps:

- OAC staff to draft revised TRG application form for review at the April meeting in Bakersfield.
- OAC staff to contact CLCTRG sub-committee created to examine outreach and recruitment for CLCTRG membership. Members volunteering to participate: Jo Ann Johnson, Staci Hiramoto, Nancy Carter, Arnulfo Medina, Ron King, Zula Reeves. Staci and Zula volunteered to be co-leads and will report out at the April 23, 2008 CLCTRG meeting in Bakersfield.

Person Assigned:

- Earl Green/Stacie Hiramoto
- Earl Green

Hosting of CLCTRG Meetings

Highlights of discussion:

- The committee discussed at length that a larger ethnic/racial population in a larger geographic area can be reached if the TRG meet separately and at different locations from the scheduled OAC meetings. A “host” agency or community needed to be identified.
- A recommendation was made to have the next meeting in April, in Bakersfield, to be held at the same hotel location as the MHSOAC Commissioners meeting and that further discussion was needed regarding host agencies or communities.
- Two sub-committees were discussed: one for the purpose of outreach and recruitment for CLCTRG membership, and; two, identifying targeted groups and host communities. At the 01/23/08 CLCTRG meeting in Sacramento, Toni Taylor, SSM I in the DMH Office of Multicultural Services, volunteered to provide a list of possible hosts in other folks areas, urban areas and rural areas.

Next steps:

- OAC staff will follow up with Toni Taylor on this issue and report back to the CLCTRG at the April meeting in Bakersfield.

Person Assigned:

- Toni Taylor – Office of Multicultural Services
- Earl Green

CLCTRG Workplan

Highlights of discussion:

- The final CLCTRG Workplan was discussed and preparation made for presentation to the MHSOAC Commissioners during their meeting.
- Considerable discussion revolved around the terms unserved, underserved and inappropriately served as presented in the workplan.
- Emphasis was placed on clarifying for the MHSOAC Commissioners that these terms are “placeholders” or the framework from which further discussion by the Commissioners and stakeholders could start.
- These terms are intended for CLCTRG purposes and not as a requirement of the MHSOAC or other TRGs.
- Also stated was that definitions for these terms are not just the responsibility of the CLCTRG.
- There was considerable discussion on CLCTRG taking the “lead” on defining unserved, underserved and inappropriately served.
- The CLCTRG will weigh in on defining these terms and that they are only one of several changes that may be needed relative to cultural and linguistic issues.
- CLCTRG Workplan has definitions of these terms for workgroup issues, tasks, etc.
- Clarification of these terms should come with the completion of the integrated plan.

Next Steps:

- OAC staff to review/research prior staff documentation on defining unserved, underserved and inappropriately served terminology.
- For the CLCTRG Final Workplan, OAC staff added a footnote: “To appropriately address any concerns or confusion with definitions associated with unserved, underserved, and inappropriately served, these terms and definitions are specific to the CLCTRG only.”

Person Assigned:

- Earl Green
- Earl Green

Reducing Disparities

Highlight of discussion:

- Discussion on the role of the CLCTRG and reducing disparities
- Kelvin will be reporting to the MHSOAC Commissioners on the issue of disparities
- A framework is needed on how we define disparities. Is it only reporting the differences in utilization?
- How will we know when we have succeeded in reducing disparities? Is it dependent on penetration rates? What are the bench marks being looked at?
- One concern stated was that when evaluating disparities, the model is Euro-centric and does not address the needs of California’s multi-racial, ethnic and linguistic communities.
- Historic disparities includes unserved, underserved and inappropriately served communities.
- When examining the questions of unserved, underserved, inappropriately served and historical disparities, we need to, “listen without filters.”

Next steps:

- Further discussion among CLCTRG members needed regarding defining disparities and reducing disparities.

Native American Presentation

Highlights of discussion:

- Draft letter and Kelvin's notes were passed out.
- Discussion of interaction between CLCTRG and Dr. Ethan Nebelkopf and Connie Reitman-Solas.
- Intent of Native American presentation was to emphasize the need for inclusion in the MHSA planning processes and roll outs of resources.
- It was suggested that this type of discussion needs or should be included as an agenda item.

Next steps:

- CLCTRG Chair and past vice-chair to meet with Sheri and discuss/develop a follow up letter to Dr. Nebelkopf and Ms. Reitman-Solas.

Person Assigned:

- Linford Gayle, Kelvin Lee, Sheri Whitt

New Business:

- Brief discussion on the recently released RFP for Statewide Clients and Family Member Technical Assistance Center funded through WET.
- Issue introduced indicated that the RFP lacked cultural and linguistic diversity
- A presentation on this subject was scheduled for 02/21/08 to the Commissioners

(Not sure what to do with this ??)

Recommendations/Decisions:

For the April 23, 2008 CLCTRG meeting

- Native American summary (not sure who is doing this or what it entails – any notes on this?)
- Discussion and possible definition of culturally competent communication and what does it sound like?

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.