

REMHDCO

Racial & Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition

April 2008 Report to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

- I. Organization: Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition or *REMHDCO*.
- II. Author: Stacie Hiramoto, REMHDCO Coordinator, with assistance from other REMHDCO members.
- III. We are a statewide coalition of non-profit state wide and local organizations, consumers and family members, whose mission is *to work to reduce mental health disparities through advocacy for racial and ethnic communities*.
- IV. REMHDCO is a stakeholder in the mental health community. Several members serve as volunteers on the OAC's Cultural and Linguistic Technical Resource Group (CLCTRG) and some of the committees (PEI and Innovations).
- V.& VI. MHSAs Points of Interest:
 - A. **Stakeholder Improvement Efforts.** REMHDCO applauds the efforts of state DMH to improve the stakeholder processes. The meeting they held on February 27th was outstanding in its inclusiveness of underserved racial and ethnic communities in California. REMHDCO urges the OAC to support the recommendations from that meeting made by not only REMHDCO, but a larger group of representatives from racial and ethnic communities.
 - B. **Under PEI Statewide Projects: The RFP for the Client and Family Technical Resource Center.** REMHDCO wants to ensure that consumers and family members from underserved racial and ethnic communities, as well their communities are included in participation and benefit from this grant.
 - C. **Changes and clarification to the PEI resource document.** REMHDCO commends the efforts of Deborah Lee on behalf of the OAC, and others for their efforts to broaden the approaches outlined in the PEI resource document that accompanies the guidelines for the counties. Less intensive prevention models and approaches should be encouraged, but this is not clear in the current document. REMHDCO would also like to acknowledge the state DMH for recognizing that there are concerns and for their willingness to dialogue with other government and community stakeholders.
- VII. Other Pressing Issues: The definition of "underserved" in regards to the MHSAs. REMHDCO believes that clarifying this issue would increase understanding among the stakeholders.