

MINORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Chair, David Mariant; Co-Chairs: Patricio E. Gutierrez and Robert Gill

This report is a high level review of the 2012/2013 Minority Advisory Committee (MAC) meetings. The purpose of the MAC is to foster knowledge and awareness of the mental health needs, services that are available and needed for the minority population within our county; with an emphasis on the underserved. Through the MAC gained knowledge the chair, co-chair and other MHB participants are equipped to advocate for the minority population and guide the Full Mental Health Board members with gained minority population sensitivity, feedback and needs.

The first meeting of the new year began with a discussion about Gangs, Early Release, Homeless issues, Refugees, the Ethnic & Cultural Communities Advisory Committee (ECCAC), and the innovative work by the Mental Health Department (MHD). With the use of the mental health services act funding, the Law Enforcement Training Simulation Videos for police officers was created. The video training equips police officers with simulated experience to enhance their ability to respond to potentially 5150 police calls which may involve a mentally ill person. This is of particular concern to the MAC because according to SCC statistics there were 21 police officer related shootings in the past five years and 11 of the individuals shot had mental illness. The question remains as to how many of the police shootings involved the minority population and whether or not there was a disproportionate amount of minorities who were shot.

The past years activity involved many things including presentations on MHSA (Mental Health Services Act) funded housing, the ongoing progress on the Multi-Cultural Center, Medical and Medicare updates from the Council on Aging and numerous presentations from the Ethnic & Cultural Communities Advisory Committee (ECCAC). The ECCAC presentation highlights will be the focus of the remaining report below:

Native American ECCAC July 17, 2012 **Presenter: Sharon Torres, Team Lead**

The Native Family Outreach & Engagement (NFOE) is a group that is made up of Native American mental health consumers and family members to support and strengthen American Indian cultural and spiritual traditions that promote mental health for American Indian families. It was formed to provide culturally appropriate education and support to families in their community who are out of balance due to stress of mental illness, (including alcohol and other drug abuse) and to partner with other organizations which serve the American Indian community. The Native American population in SCC is 1.4%.

NFOE seek to identify societal problems, such as social stigma, familial shame, and consumer isolation. The main goal of this group is to develop specific plans of action, to develop strategies to reduce harm, to assess the effectiveness of the plans, and to adjust our programs as needed, with thought and flexibility. The NFOE hosts discussions of the connections between history and health as well as finding the road to optimal wellness and recovery of the Indian heritage.

African American ECCAC September 18, 2012 **Presenter: Melody Hames, Team Lead: Carla Hudson**

Despite the financial setbacks for SCC, the African American ECCAC group has conducted 5 Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) trainings, trained 47 MHFA individuals, and has raised the annual consumer and family members reached by a total of 272. The ECCAC also advocates for the community by attending MHB meetings, attending SLC meetings, attending community meetings, and by participating in all outside trainings that will enhance each ECCAC member's ability to provide outreach.

To better understand the African American population and determine target population and health needs, SCC administrators referred to an assessment completed by ECCAC members which went into each

