



BHPOC Work Group on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Behavioral Health

Legislative Office Building Room 3000, Hartford CT 06106
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www.cga.ct.gov/ph/BHPOC

Co-Chairs: Alice Forrester and Selma Ward

Agenda

April 2, 2024 11:00 AM via ZOOM

The BHPOC is committed to creating to an environment that provides equal access to behavioral healthcare in a culturally competent capacity, with particular attention to social and racial justice.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96229629416?pwd=U09UR3p1YVJpMVBWNuZ1MHNWVUF0QT09>

Meeting ID: 967 7285 3943 Passcode: 811297

+19292056099,,95844380526#,,, *971141# US (New York)

+13017158592,,95844380526#,,, *971141# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 980 3203 0015

Passcode: 660830

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/96229629416?pwd=U09UR3p1YVJpMVBWNuZ1MHNWVUF0QT09>

Join by SIP

92035438730@zoomcrc.com

Join by H.323

162.255.37.11 (US West)

162.255.36.11 (US East)

Meeting ID: 929 6974 4605

Passcode: 336456

David Kaplan, Alice Forrester, Brenetta Henry, Shaina Singh, Carlos Blanca, Lois Berkowitz, Mark Vanacore, Genevieve Walker, Stephney Springer, Neva Caldwell, Sam Haun, Amy Soto, Jaya Daptarder, Yohanna Cifuentes, Adam Prizio, Noel Casiano, Donyale Pina, Yvonne Jones, Loida Reyes, Crystal Williams, Carmen Rosario

Scribe: Christine Maziuk

1. Welcome

2. Discussion about presentation to talk about DEI for other groups

- Discussion ensured about the PPT presentation to share with other work groups across the state regarding DEI and antiracist work. It is important to incorporate a consumer aspect and standardize the message. The audience for this presentation would be councils and subcommittees encompassing DEI, other committees that the members of this group sit on (TCB, Primary Care). This group would look for opportunities to reach out to broader networks and get their input. Yvonne Jones is assisting in collecting data.

- Alice Forrester shared a presentation. Conversation ensued around clarifying the perspective under diversity, keeping definition out DEI boarder and more fluid. It was brought up that collecting accurate data is challenging when people do not wish to disclose ethnicity. There was a suggestion to use “Antiracist Practice and not “DEI” and to add “B” to the end of the acronym to represent “belonging”. Discussion ensued around how access to care is declining and insurance is the biggest barrier. A list of barriers and how to fix or address them is needed. There is a need to potentially change the language around the issues. There is a need to address changes in hiring processes and who is on the hiring panels.

3. Collecting consumer surveys and focus with providers on what has changed with that feedback

- Discussion ensued around what happens to consumer survey results. What is the focus group on providers doing with the information they are provided? There is a need to use simple, third grade language so any interpreter can translate accurately and simply. Yvonne mentioned there is a meeting coming up to discuss a request for information from BH.

4. Open appointments to BH oversight counsel

- On the website under “membership”, it is the governor’s office that does the vetting. No one is responding to these appointments. They are aware of the openings and people are being recommended and there needs to be streamlining. It is unacceptable to wait months/years. David Kaplan has written many letters and suggests a letter writing campaign and in person meetings with legislators.
- California Code GOV-6219 1/1/23 (ISO 24495-1:2023 Plain Language Law)
- It was suggested to pull a small committee together: Alice Forrester, Brenetta Henry and Jaya Daptarder.

5. New business, announcements, adjourn

- None discussed

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 11:00 AM via ZOOM