

NJ Statewide Network for Cultural Competency (NJSNCC)

Meeting Notes--Wednesday, August 15, 2007

Host: Shakira Linzey, Mid Jersey CARES, Early Intervention

Location: Mid Jersey CARES REIC/CNJMCHC, North Brunswick, NJ

1:00 pm Steering Committee

Bill Gaventa opened meeting by requesting attendees introduce themselves and their organizations. Bill continued by introducing the scope of the discussion and summarizing a background of the NJ Statewide Network for Cultural Competency (NJSNCC).

This Network has been in existence for five (5) years. It began as a result of a Targeted Technical Assistance Workshop on Cultural Competence facilitated by The National Center for Cultural Competence of Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development awarded to the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, Division of Family Health Services. To date, the Network has developed a listserv which is used to share updates and information regarding cultural competency to all listserv participants across New Jersey, participated as speakers at conferences, and developed a web site which houses a database of resources through out the State.

(<http://www.state.nj.us/njsncc/>)

The group discussion centered on the future focus of the Network. Where do we want to go with this Network? What do we want to achieve over the next year? How will we get there? Group consensus reached that structure is needed in order to assist its members in achieving its objectives. A request for volunteers from group was offered. A list was sent around for attendees to sign up to become a steering committee member. Twelve people signed up. Details and defining roles for steering committee to be discussed at next meeting.

Consensus reached that the listserv should continue. Anyone who is interested in sharing new projects, requesting training, posting positions or posting information related to cultural competence on the listserv can send directly out to listserv. Requests do not need to be sent to a central location first.

Action Items:

- Liz Fortunato will review NJSCC Brochure and update as necessary.
- Group will research opportunities for funding sources for reprint brochures for outreach at conferences and training sessions.
- Zenaida Steinhauer will follow up with Janet Varan (Department of Health & Senior Services' web master) to determine if a count of 'hits' mechanism is now available and if it can be added to web site along with a request to develop a mechanism to track types of contacts to this web site by category, e.g. request for training, and general info.

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2:00 pm Presentation. Dr. Anita Mclean, Psy.D.

Dr. McClean, Psy.D. is the training coordinator for Counseling and Psychological Services at University Health Services at Princeton. She presented: Cultural Competence: Working with Immigrants in America. This presentation focused on the key components of relevant training; theoretical, experiential, and practice. It led to a discussion about developing a workshop day to “Train Trainers” in cultural competence, sharing strategies, resources, exercises, key areas to cover, etc.

3:00 pm Networking, Sharing of New Projects, Resources, Ideas and Planning for This Next Year

Possible Next Steps

- Discuss ideas/finding on funding sources for hard print copies of the NJSNCC brochure
- Define roles of steering committee members and structure for the Network.
- Research Blue Ribbon initiative(s) for presentation at next Networking Meeting
- Update and introduce a list of trainers who can serve as resources for agencies
- Identify future speakers to attend a future meeting.
- Identify agencies or organizations who want to host Quarterly Networking Meetings.

There were about 25 people in attendance for the major part of the meeting.

4:00 pm Adjourn

Notes by Elizabeth Fortunato