



DIVERSITY & EQUITY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: October 23, 2017

Start Time: 6:05

End Time: 6:55

Location of This Meeting: Regional Center of the East Bay

500 Davis Street, San Leandro

1320 Willow Pass Road, Concord

ATTENDEES:

Staff Present: RCEB: Lisa Kleinbub, Ronke Sodipo, Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, Jairo Güiza, Christine Hansen, Antonia Heinrich, Michi Toy

Guests: Angela Gattis, Morena Grimaldi, Kathy Hebert, Vi Ibarra, Arthur Lipscomb, Sheraden Nicholau, Sandi Soliday, Gerald Tamayo, Esther Wong, Geneva Ziaouré

PENDING ISSUES/QUESTIONS FROM THE MEETING

Request for a list of support groups was made, so that they can be informed of events or information.

RCEB does have a list on their website, but we are not sure if those support groups are still active or not. <https://www.rceb.org/general-information/support-groups>

SUPPORT GROUPS SUMMARY – Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez

Sister Marygrace advised the group that East Bay Services will start a group for Spanish Speaking Mothers who have infants & young children with special needs who are experiencing stress/psychological issues. They may have a practitioner to work with once a month at the Center of Well-Being. This referral needs to come from the case manager.

Elvia continues to make preparations for the Open Houses for Families' initiative. She's brainstorming with supervisors about the best approach. Currently one option is being considered: Set different tables with service coordinators providing information on specific issues, and to facilitate circulation of families so they have access to the greatest amount of information. The time being considered for these open houses is 11 am to 1 pm.

On November 13th families will gather in Livermore to talk about the IEP. The conversation will be led by DREDEF. Elvia and 2 supervisors from the children's division will ask families for suggestions on the type of questions they want to be answered during the open house.

Open houses could start in the central area of Contra Costa County and will be conducted quarterly, starting with the children's division and then "roll it out" to other ages.

Food and raffles will be available as incentives for families to participate.

Also, Elvia stated that she and Sister Marygrace are available to visit parent support groups that invite them.

DIVERSITY & EQUITY SPECIALIST SUMMARY – Jairo Guiza

The first cultural competence training was held on October 17th. Forty-five managers (directors and supervisors) participated. We have received positive feedback from participants.

Two outreach activities were conducted to connect the regional center with the larger community: The Oakland Community Organizations general meeting and the King Pan festival, which is an event where lo Mien families gather to honor the ancestors and to celebrate.

RCEB will request DDS funds for continuation of the following projects:

- Cultural competency training for staff and service providers
- Community events
- Production of family information materials in all languages with more than 30 individuals and interpretation equipment
- Funding for RCEB Transition Support Liaison for 0-3 years-old and potentially out of contact families

Organizations providing consumer/family mentorship projects will apply on their own. Day services will become vendorized programs. These are day services for people or their families who speak Spanish, Cantonese, Mien, Cambodian, or Vietnamese.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER

Comments by other participants:

Esther Wong stated that Asian parent support groups are meeting regularly. The frequency varies from one group to another. She also highlighted the fact that many Asian families are not willing to share stories in support groups.

Sandi Soliday emphasized how important translation is in order to make information accessible to all families. Sandi invites all present to work together and provide the support needed to make translation available at events where important information is delivered to families.

One example is the upcoming conference “2017 Post-Secondary Educational Opportunities” which will be held on Saturday, December 2, 2017 at the Ed Roberts Campus, 3075 Adeline Street from 8:30 am – 1:00 pm in Berkeley, CA 94703 (this is located above Ashby BART).

The meeting ended with a conversation in small groups about the ways in which this committee is carrying out its mission. A copy of the committee mission was distributed among all present.

Next Meeting:

Monday, November 27, 2017 at 6:00pm

- San Leandro