



California Pan-Ethnic
HEALTH NETWORK

CPEHN Virtual Mental Health Briefing Program

Wednesday, November 18th

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

11:00 AM to 11:05 AM: Housekeeping

11:05 AM to 11:15 AM: Opening Remarks: The impact of COVID-19 and structural racism on access to mental health services for communities of color.

Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer of the California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies, and the Executive Director of the California Access Coalition

Dr. Clark Harvey will address the impact of COVID-19 and structural racism on access to mental health services for communities of color and discuss the concrete steps California decisionmakers must take to advance behavioral health equity. She holds unique experience/intersectional roles as a practicing psychologist, policy advocate, and representative of behavioral health agencies.

11:15 AM to 11:25 AM Session 1: Release of California Health Care Foundation and California Pan-Ethnic Health Network's Joint Publication: Mental Health Disparities by Race and Ethnicity in Medi-Cal.

Kiran Savage Sangwan, MPA, Executive Director, California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

In 2017, AB 470: The Mental Health Equity Act was passed, requiring Medi-Cal to track and release data on mental health access and utilization.

Despite longstanding and recent requirements for Medi-Cal to be culturally and linguistically accessible, the previous lack of data has made it difficult to enforce and hold delivery systems accountable.

The California Health Care Foundation and California Pan-Ethnic Health Network took a look at the data and published a new report on mental health disparities adults' face in the Medi-Cal program, and in what ways California's public mental health system is driving mental health disparities.

11:25 AM to 12:40 PM Session 2: Local Programs and Policies California Should Scale Up

Join us for a roundtable discussion with three experimental and evidence-based policies and programs proven to reduce mental health disparities in communities of color across California.

California policymakers continue to grapple with how to best reform the state's mental health system. Mental health reform is necessary and more urgent than ever due to the pandemic and rising levels of stress and anxiety.

We will discuss how racial equity must be central to conversations about mental health reforms

Roundtable Discussion

Moderator: Mihae Jung, MSW, Community Advocacy Director, California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

Tracy Lacey, LMFT, Senior Mental Health Services Manager, Solano County Behavioral Health Department

- Tracy will discuss how Solano County applied their innovation dollars to quantitatively reduce mental health disparities in Filipino American, Latino and LGBTQ+ communities.

Gulshan Yusufzai, Executive Director, Muslim American Society- Social Services Foundation

- Gulshan will discuss outcomes associated with a project in Sacramento that aims to reduce mental health disparities among the South Asian Muslim refugee adult community through the training and use of culturally responsive Peer Counselors.

Anna Gorman, MS, MPH, Director of Community Partnerships and Programs, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services

- Anna will discuss the Los Angeles County's County Board of Supervisors initiative to expand mental health services for My Health LA residents who do not have access to other government mental health programs due to their immigration status.

12:40 PM to 12:45 PM Break

12:45 PM to 1:00 PM Session 3: California State and Budget Landscape

What is the future of funding for behavioral health funding and policy in California? Due to COVID-19, California is experiencing an unprecedented economic crisis that has and will continue to have a direct impact on health services. But what is less understood is the impact of California's budget crisis on access and funding for behavioral health services. Please join us for a discussion of how have county behavioral health departments have responded to the crisis in behavioral health access and funding and recommendations for California policymakers to address the looming budget crisis in behavioral health.

Michelle Doty Cabrera, Executive Director, California Behavioral Health Directors Association