

**Behavioral Health Equity Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 21, 2021 9:30am – 11:00am**

**Facilitated by:** Bijan Amirshahi, Ethnic Services Manager

**In Attendance:** Helmy; Deana, Gibbs; Danny, Hernandez; Elizabeth, Renteria; Teresa, Nguyen; Hieu, Tran; Duan, Nagel; Jeff, Nguyen; Nikki, Wright; Ernesta, O'Brien; Brett, Rao; Bhuvana, Salamati; Armin, Eftekharzadeh; Sohail, Soto Welty; Iliana, Wang; Jon, Grande; Andre, Ramirez; Jessica, McCleese; Belinda, Peong; Vattana, Thornton; April, Williams; Cyntralia, Pham; Lu, Ngo; Hannah, Arnot; Michael, St. Clair; Shelby, Burney; Lenora, Whetsell; Brittany, Sharifaei, Joya.

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Ethnic Services Manager, Bijan Amirshahi opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.
- II. **Review and Approval of December 2020 Meeting** - Suggestion was made to amend minutes. BHEC member Michael Arnot suggested to replace: "The Governing Structure (GS) for the committee was completed and approved and will be adopted as of January 1, 2021" with "The draft Governing Structure (GS) for the committee was presented." Minutes discussed later in meeting, and motions were made to include Mr. Arnot's comment in the minutes. Minutes were approved as amended. It was later clarified that the GS was approved by BHS Director following feedback from the BHEC members.
- III. **BHEC Governing Structure: Co-Chairs**
  - Bijan Amirshahi, ESM, was appointed by the Director of Behavioral Health Services as the Co- Chair on behalf of the BHS.
  - Vattana Peong (Community Co-Chair) expressed the opinion that he doesn't feel the time is right to appoint a co-chair at this time, due to need to complete many other pieces first.
  - Dr. Jeff Nagel explained that Behavioral Health Service appoints the County Co-Chair who is in charge of running the meetings, preparing agenda, etc. He also stated that he feels that it would be short sighted not to have any leadership during this transition time.
  - Some Members expressed that they did not feel that the Governing Structure was yet approved and that there was still much work to do.
  - Teresa Renteria stated that preparing the Governing Structure was a collaborative process and that the Governing Structure draft was presented to the committee and they were given ample time to review and provide feedback. With the feedback incorporated, the structure was approved by BHS Management.
  - Jeff Nagel expressed that the new Steering Committee can continue to make changes to the structure where needed.
- IV. **Behavioral Health Equity Committee- The Vision, Workgroups**
  - The ESM made a power point presentation on the idea and vision of the BHEC Committee in forming the work groups.
  - Workgroups will get to know the unserved and the underserved communities of the group they signed up for, in order to better connect with the community. BHEC members signed up for various workgroups.

- Members felt that not just county, but community groups should be contacted to fill spots in the workgroup in order to get more community involvement.
- Workgroups will be meeting at their mutually decided time.

**IV. Significant Events in January- MLK Day**

- Some of Dr. Kings most memorable quotes were shared.

**V. December Meeting Review- Culture Newsletter**

- Virtual potluck held for second half of meeting, with cultural dishes shared from a few members of the committee. It was reported that out of the thirty-three attendees in the first half of the meeting twenty two stayed for the virtual potluck.
- Nikoo Tabesh, Belinda McCleese, and Allison Kellman each shared a holiday dish from their culture.
- This sparked the idea of a Culture Newsletter, Culture Matters.
- Newsletter can be distributed to the healthcare agency. Members asked to volunteer or to reach out to people who may be interested

**VI. G.R.E.E.N Foundation Introduction – Ernesta Wright**

- G.R.E.E.N Foundation informs Black and African Americans about quality healthcare. Advocacy and peer navigation services are provided and teaches the community what and where services are being provided.
- Dr. Lezlee Matthews introduced herself and spoke briefly about working with the G.R.E.E.N. foundation since 2012.

**VII. Next Meeting**

- Wednesday February 17, 2021  
9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
Via Zoom