

**BHEC Steering Committee Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
July 8, 2021**

**Facilitated by:** Bijan Amirshahi and Iliana Soto Welty

**In Attendance:** Nguyen, Kelvin; McCleese, Belinda; Rao, Bhuvana; Arnot, Michael; Helmy, Deana; Whetsell, Brittany; Ngo, Hannah; Eftekharzadeh, Sohail; Renteria, Teresa; Kalvoda, Katie

**I. Welcome and Introductions –**

- Ethnic Services Manager, Bijan Amirshahi opened the meeting with a brief introduction of Katie Kalvoda.
- Reflection video from SC Member Kelvin Nguyen was shared with the members. Kelvin shared his story part of a series called “Decolonizing Mental Health.”
- Members thanked Kelvin for sharing his story.
- Members discussed the police involvement in mental health crises and the progress OC is making in involving behavioral health professionals in responding to such calls.
- June 2021 meeting minutes were approved.

**II. Advance OC**

- Katie Kalvoda made a presentation on Advance OC organization.
- Advance OC aims to address disparities and inequalities in OC Communities.
- Advance OC is holding their community meeting on July 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Members expressed interest in partnering with Advance OC as well as having a comprehensive presentation by them.

**III. Workgroup Review**

- Bijan reported that the Outreach to Black/African Americans Work Group had several attendees in the last meeting. He said the group is working on developing the message, who to reach out to, and how to do that.

- Kelvin reported on the Threshold Languages Work Group. He said they are working on outreach and getting more people at the table.
- Bhuvana reported that the LGBTIQ+ Work Group is working to attract more members and will meet soon.
- Deana reported that that the Spirituality Work Group is finalizing their mission statement and discussing a townhall.
- Michael reported that the Community Relations and Education Work Group is looking at elevating the profile of the BHEC Committee, and will be meeting again in August.
- Iliana suggested that the BHEC general meetings be added to the Stigma Free website.

#### **IV. BHEC Bylaws**

- Michael reported that the draft is finalized and now we are looking to get it approved and adapted.
- Bijan suggested a few members look it over for review.
- Teresa suggested we all look at it for feedback and review,
- July 22<sup>nd</sup> will be the deadline for review. Feedback can be sent to Michael.

#### **V. BHEC General Meeting**

- General BHEC membership has not met since February.
- Iliana suggested community input on what the work groups are doing.
- Bijan reported that we will shortly start working on the 2021 Cultural Competence Plan Update.
- Members suggested direct community input, so that they feel heard and that they are actually involved in creating the final update.
- Iliana suggested Katie Kalvoda being a part of the plan update process.
- Also discussed was ways the work on CC Plan Update can be used within HCA to provide actionable items.

- Bijan will send out the plan update as well as the guidelines to all SC members.

## **VI. Goal Statement**

- Bijan shared goal statement for review by committee to decide what to add/remove/change.
- Members will have a week for input and feedback, and then Iliana and Bijan will work on it.

## **VII. Announcements**

- Bijan reported that Ernesta Wright has indicated in a recent e-mail that she will no longer be able to attend the BHEC Meetings, so there is an open space for a community member.
- Michael suggested Leta Albright to be invited to join the BHEC.
- SC members indicated that they are open to suggestions for community members to fill the spot.
- Iliana asked for anyone with ideas for a reflection or something to share in our next meeting to please reach out to one of the co-chairs.

## **VIII. Next Meeting**

- Thursday August 12, 2021  
1-3 pm  
Virtual via zoom