

MENTAL HEALTH INTERPRETER TRAINING OVERVIEW AND PROPOSAL

The Mental Health Interpreter Training (MHIT) was developed by The National Latino Behavioral Health Association (NLBHA) and the National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association (NAAPIMHA) in partnership and collaboration with the Texas Department of State Health Services, the California State Department of Mental Health and California Institute of Mental Health to support state and county mental health systems across the country. The MHIT is a nationally recognized and established training curriculum that has trained close to 700 interpreters and providers since it was pilot tested in California in 2007.

Goals of the MHIT

- Improve overall quality of care for individuals with limited English proficiency,
- Train and support culturally competent interpreters to work effectively in mental health settings as part of a professional team, and
- Help train providers on understanding the important role of interpreters and learning how to use interpreters properly and effectively.

The MHIT training is designed to:

- Provide mental health interpreter training using a nationally recognized and established training curriculum that supports established best practices of language access.
- Provide master trainers who are certified or licensed as behavioral health professionals and have, at least, three years of training in cultural and linguistic competencies.
- Conduct Interpreter Training and Provider Training workshops for agency staff trainings.
- Deliver training on-site for the convenience of agencies in releasing staff to be trained.

The MHIT has two components:

- *3-day Intensive Training of Interpreters in Mental Health Settings*
- *7-hour Training for Providers who use Interpreters in Mental Health Settings*

Training of Interpreters

Purpose: To train language interpreters to appropriately interpret behavioral health-related interactions between clinicians such as doctors, therapists, case managers and their consumers and families in order to support the provision of culturally and linguistically appropriate behavioral health services and therapy. Interpreters receive basic knowledge around interpreter roles and models of interpreting as well as mental health terms, diagnosis and unique aspects associated in working with mental health issues. The training helps interpreters see themselves as critical members of a professional team that requires their understanding of clinical issues while maintaining professional boundaries.

Training Providers who use Interpreter Services in Mental Health Settings

Purpose: To work with monolingual English speaking clinicians and case managers or other caregivers on how to successfully use interpreter services in the Mental Health and Wellness provision of services. Managing the variables of language, culture, verbal and

non-verbal communication, and communication in low and high context cultures during the session is the main focus of the training.

Format for Trainings

- Interpreter training is three 7-hour training days
- Provider training is one day (7-hour) training
- All trainings are done on site
- Trainings are a combination of didactic and interactive exercises
- Training workshops are limited to a maximum of 30 participants
- Participants receive training manuals and handouts
- Interpreter Trainings have pre-post tests and participant satisfactory questionnaires
- Each training has professional evaluation report of training/trainers

CEU's (Continuing Education Units):

The Provider and Interpreter trainings meet the criteria for Continuing Education Units for Social Workers, Master Family Therapist and Registered Nurses as well as CE's for Psychologists. The Provider Training also meets the criteria for offering Continuing Medical Education Credits, and CME for Physicians. NLBHA will work with agencies on any documentation needed to offer CEU's for staff.

COST OF TRAININGS

The price for the 3-day (21 hour) mental health interpreter training is \$12,586 and includes trainer fees, travel costs, training manuals, handouts, testing materials, and a professional evaluation report summarizing findings of the training. The Interpreter Training workshop is taught by two (2) trainers with extensive training backgrounds and experience in the area of mental health. Training workshops are limited to a maximum of 30 participants. Participants receive Certificates of Completion at the end of the course.

The price for the 1-day (7 hour) provider training is \$5,432 and includes trainer fees, travel costs, training manuals, handouts, and a report summarizing findings of the training. The Provider Training workshop is taught by one (1) trainer and workshops are limited to a maximum of 30 participants. Participants receive Certificates of Completion at the end of the course.