Making the business of Reducing Disparities and Stigma real for the African American Community

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Recommendations and Key Community Practices
Critical Components for "making it real"

- Implementing the recommendations in the Strategic Plan
- Utilizing the recommendations from each SPW report
- Utilizing the Key Community Practices highlighted in each report
Key Recommendations

- Initiate statewide "Crisis Care"
  - Crisis care does not involve jails, but provides an option for care for clients who present directly, or require more care than they can receive in a 72 hour hold
  - Mandate culturally congruent principles for the Black population, and only fund programs that utilize them
Key Recommendations

• Establish oversight and accountability committees in each County (or groups of small counties) with authority to approve county funding for MHSA projects

• Create systems that allow community-based organizations to successfully partner with public agencies, and fund neighborhood-based PEI programs for sustainability long term

• Establish or support community-driven integrated prevention systems for mental, behavioral, and physical health (example: Marin City Health and Wellness Center)
Key Recommendations

• Support culturally-congruent faith-based crisis intervention efforts

• Establish continuum of health and education systems

• Establish prisoner re-entry "places of compassion"
Key Recommendations

- Establish a culturally competent care paradigm, and train professionals to adhere to it

- Support initiatives for positive images of Black culture
Key Recommendations are only the beginning point for creating and sustaining a system of care that is culturally responsive to the community.
Key Community Practices

- Supportive Family involvement and kinship bonds -- using family support systems
- Community Rituals -- using existing community systems and structures that support culture
- Spiritual, Faith, Belief, Guidance -- integrating spiritual healing practices where that important to client
Key Community Practices

• Profiling positive Black images -- visible role models, using culturally congruent media initiatives, school-based cultural programs, etc.

• Community Healing Circles -- connect with existing community programs that support health and wellness, such as The Village Project (Monterey County), Isoji (Marin County), Skid Row Positive Resident (Los Angeles County)
Key Community Practices

• Support overall health through healthy food consumption programs -- partner with farmers markets and other outlets for obtaining fresh foods, especially in communities with low access to them

• Culturally congruent education activities

• Stronger relationships with ethnically congruent caregivers
Key Community Practices

- Don't re-invent the wheel. Utilize existing helpful community resources, and support their outreach activity.

- Community Crisis Assistance. Working in concert with community-based organizations to assist in response to crisis situations.
Key Community Practices are critical to integrating care into the community's life systems. Their use requires a new mindset about the value of non-professional, non-traditional expertise. It rarely happens in an office.