

## **The Alliance of Culturally-Specific Behavioral Health Providers & Programs (The Alliance)**

The Alliance is a group of culturally-specific (bicultural & bilingual) behavioral health providers and programs providing culturally and linguistically appropriate services to meet the special needs of the racially & ethnically diverse populations in Oregon including, but not limited to, African American, Asian, Hispanic, Native American and immigrants and refugees from Eastern Europe, Africa, and Middle Eastern countries. The racially & ethnically diverse consumers we serve suffer from serious mental illness diagnoses, including major depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, and psychosis. Major physical illnesses, such as diabetes and hypertension, create the need for complex medical care. Cultural and language barriers often exacerbate symptoms of their mental and physical illnesses. Recent and historical experiences of oppression, discrimination, and severe trauma significantly challenge their engagement in mainstream health care.

**Our Goal for Health Care Transformation Efforts:** Be recognized as a key and active partner to implement strategic health care integration goals for racially and ethnically diverse populations.

**Request to Collaborate in Oregon's Health Transformation:** The Alliance can be traced back over twelve years ago, when members were serving in the Cultural Competency Committee in Multnomah County, which was sponsored by former Senator Avel Gordly. The Alliance has been meeting since January 2011 to address possible impacts of HB3650. On May 20, 2011, the Alliance sent a request to Dr. Bruce Goldberg, M.D., Oregon Health Authority, to request an opportunity for collaboration: *"State recognizes the significant role and contribution of Cultural Specific Providers/Programs in the health care system for reducing health disparities and ensuring health equity for all Oregonians. State will work to assure the viability of the Cultural Specific Providers/Programs."* The Alliance is currently collaborating on workgroups and committees related to Health Care Transformation.

### **What the Alliance will specifically provide for Oregon's Health Care Transformation:**

1. Clear data and information about the needs and successful approaches to health care for racially and ethnically diverse and refugee Consumers.
2. A unique set of expertise and best practices for implementing key health care integration goals for racially and ethnically diverse populations, i.e., utilizing culturally specific medical providers, psychiatrists, mental health professionals, A&D professionals, case managers and peer specialists.
3. Significant experience and information on care for severe trauma for racially, ethnically diverse, and refugee populations, including torture survivors.
4. Outreach and training for primary care and other providers working with ethnically and racially diverse and refugee populations
5. Vital assistance in developing metrics to evaluate models of care involving racially, ethnically diverse, and refugee populations
6. A cost effective "Model of Care" to consider for all of the Tri-County Consumers, which could engage consumers well, keep them in treatment, and produce good outcomes.

**Evaluation Goals for Treatment Outcomes in the Alliance Programs:** 1) Low Emergency Room Visits 2) Reduced Hospitalizations 3) High Percentage of Clinic Visits Kept 4) High Satisfaction Reports from our Consumers.

**Evaluation Goals for Administration of the Alliance Programs:** 1) Maintain culturally-competent leadership 2) Recruit and retain racially and ethnically diverse providers 3) Support education goals of racially and ethnically diverse individuals.

### **Position Statement from the Alliance: Cultivating "Triple -Win" Partnership in Health Care**

- 1) State and County officials and health care partners working with Health Care Transformation in Oregon will continue to value and increase their knowledge about the importance and necessity of delivering culturally and linguistically competent health care to Medicaid Clients.
- 2) Officials and health care partners will recognize and support the very relevant, long experience of culturally-specific behavioral health providers and programs in the Tri-County area which currently deliver effective care to racial and ethnic populations, many of which have long histories of huge health care disparities.

## Testimony for SB 1580

- 3) Members of culturally and linguistically different populations, such as Native American, African American, Asian American, Latino/a American, immigrants and refugees from countries of Eastern Europe, Africa, and the Middle East have huge problems accessing, engaging in, and following through with health care. Culturally-specific behavioral health care providers and programs, which have the staff and other infrastructure in place to engage these target populations, can provide a vital bridge to these populations to help them understand, access, engage, feel comfortable with, and follow through with health care. A strong measure of success: Consumers are “strongly engaged and participate” in their own health care.
- 4) We strongly recommend integrating the culturally specific behavioral health providers and programs into plans for Oregon’s Healthcare transformation to provide the continuum of care to racial and ethnic populations, closer linkages to primary care and reduce health inequity.
- 5) Culturally-specific providers and programs with clinical experience, cultural expertise working with these racial and ethnic populations can help reduce costs, produce reliable, relevant, possible metrics to measure progress of the health of our clients.

<b>The Alliance of Culturally-Specific Behavioral Health Providers &amp; Programs</b>	
<p><b>Asian Health &amp; Service Center(AHSC)</b> Holden Leung, CEO (503)872-8822x206( w), (503)888-3602 (mobile) <a href="mailto:hleung@ahscpdx.org">hleung@ahscpdx.org</a></p>	<p>Offers integrated &amp; holistic social and clinical services in a culturally sensitive setting to Asian immigrants. Services include support, public health, out-patient behavioral health, naturopathic and Chinese medicine clinic. Provides Care-coordination with primary care and community clinics.</p>
<p><b>Central City Concern (CCC)</b> Daniel Garcia, Program Manager (503)546-9975 Daniel.Garcia@ccconcern.org</p>	<p>Puentes program: serving Latinos in Multnomah County with alcohol and mental health concerns. Services are delivered through MIOS and ORP subprograms.</p>
<p><b>Central City Concern (CCC)</b> Sonja Ervin, Program Manager (503)226-4060 <a href="mailto:Sonja.Ervin@ccconcern.org">Sonja.Ervin@ccconcern.org</a></p>	<p>Over-Representation Project (ORP): serves African American adults who have mental health diagnosis and have on-going contact with the criminal justice system. “Hardest to reach” individuals are served by meeting where they are.</p>
<p><b>Intercultural Psychiatric Program at OHSU (IPP)</b> Crystal Riley, M.A., Coordinator for Research &amp; Development (503)494-6140 (w), (503)880-1073 (mobile) rileyc@ohsu.edu</p>	<p>A full service of culturally sensitive psychiatric clinics and psychosocial services to refugees and immigrants from Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Central and South America. Critical Care components of family medicine are integrated into IPP’s coordinated service plan.</p>
<p><b>Lutheran Community Services NW(LCSNW)</b> Pierre Morin, Clinical Director (503)231-7480 x662 pmorin@lcsnw.org</p>	<p>Culturally specific behavioral health programs to Eastern European, African and Arabic speaking refugees and immigrants. Addressing the needs of people holistically and delivering wraparound community services in a seamless manner.</p>
<p><b>Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest (NARA)</b> Jackie Mercer, CEO (503)-307-2248 <a href="mailto:narajam@aol.com">narajam@aol.com</a></p>	<p>An integrated community health and wellness provider offering a broad range of treatment and prevention services including health, mental health, addictions that support, empower and encourage Native American culture, traditions and values.</p>
<p><b>Avel Gordly Center for Healing (AGCH) at OHSU</b> Danette Haynes, LCSW, Clinical Director 503-418-0882 <a href="mailto:haynesda@ohsu.edu">haynesda@ohsu.edu</a></p>	<p>Offers culturally sensitive mental health, addictions and psychiatric services, and outreach and stigma-reducing education to the African and African American communities. We provide training to other providers on culturally-competent care for African-Americans.</p>
<p><b>Consultant:</b> Ms. Avel Gordly (503)287-6843, <a href="mailto:avelgordly@gmail.com">avelgordly@gmail.com</a></p>	<p>Providing consultation and technical support the Alliance.</p>