



Central Regional Multicultural Advisory Committee – CR MAC  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, May 18, 2016

Attendees: Doris Cheung, Lynne Esquivel, Jill Alford-Hammitt, Pam Guth, Mary Maruscak, Sam Ley, Philip Goodman, Carole Kuklis

Minutes: Opened with Introductions

Karen Moroski, Program Coordinator from the Lesbian & Gay Family Building Project located at BU presented a very informative and resourceful training on LGBTQ people. Karen is from the Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project helping lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer people in Upstate New York achieve their goals of building and sustaining healthy families. The Project offers Educational programs, Provider Training, Information & Resources, Directory of LGBTQ-Inclusive Services and Advocacy.

Karen informed us to ask open-ended questions to clients, asking how you want to be identified. Avoid making assumptions about someone's gender or behaviors. Respect and clarify any terms with which you are unfamiliar, or repeat the client's term with your own understanding or its meaning to make sure you have no miscommunication. If you are unsure, always ask. Educate yourself and colleagues about the factors unique to LGBT clients/patients. Encourage openness by explaining that personal information is kept confidential and that you need complete and accurate information to provide effective assistance. Remember that being "out" is an ongoing challenge for some individuals. Treat all people equally regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Use non-heterosexist terminology; become comfortable with words like "partner," "significant other," and spouse as a non-gender specific term.

Next presentation is from Doris Cheung, Sam Ley on "Why we use trained Mental Health Interpreters & How to work with an Interpreter." *Interpreters use a code of ethic respecting individuals they serve to foster success.*

**Next Meetings are:  
September 22 at 10:30 a.m. and December 8 at 10:30 a.m.**

**All Meetings are held at:  
Broome County Public Library  
185 Court Street, Binghamton, NY**