



**2015**

**Broome County Mental Health  
Central Region Multicultural Advisory  
(CRMAC) Committee  
Annual Report**

**January 2016**

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&  
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## Summary

This report details the activities of the Central Region Multicultural Advisory Committee (CRMAC) during 2015. CRMAC is made up of 35 colleagues from local non-profit agencies, hospitals, colleges, government offices and consumers in the Southern Tier. The committee meets 3 to 4 times annually to focus on creating and supporting a diverse mental health system by promoting cultural and linguistic competency among mental health professionals, program staff, consumers and the community.

## Introduction

In 2013, Doris Cheung, PhD, Case Manager/Advocate at Binghamton University and Lynne Esquivel, MPA, Quality Improvement Manager of the Broome County Mental Health Department (BCMHD) renamed the BCMHD Cultural Competency Committee to the Central Region Multicultural Advisory Committee. Doris and Lynne chair the quarterly meetings and are also active members of the Statewide Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC).

## Meetings and Activities

In 2015, CRMAC met in January, April, September and November.

Meetings: On January 15, 2015 CRMAC Committee Members met and discussed the Nathan Kline Assessment Scale results. Thirteen representatives completed and submitted assessment scales and we were able to determine the strengths and areas of improvement for our community. The assessment results will help us address needs that agencies reported in 2016 and beyond.

On April 16, 2015 CRMAC Committee Members met. Presenter Jill Alford-Hammitt, Lourdes Youth Services Coordinator gave us a full PowerPoint overview on Gambling in NYS.

On September 17, 2015 CRMAC Committee Members met. Presenter Emily Hotchkiss, Rural Broome Network Coordinator gave us a full PowerPoint overview on Rural Broome Counts. A presentation that collected analyzed and reported back to the community on issues/problems that rural areas in Broome County face on a daily basis.

On November 9, 2015 CRMAC Committee Members met. Presenter Doris Cheung, PhD, gave us a full PowerPoint overview on Cultural Awareness of the Hispanic Cultural.

Other Activities: On March 10, 2015 I was involved (as a MAC member) in the preparation call which followed with a formal call to Commissioner Sullivan on March 17 to discuss OMH Transformation Plan.

On March 19, 2015 Doris and I met with Frances Priester at BCMHD office and filmed our CRMAC conversation for use by OMH Bureau of Cultural Competency.

Summer of 2015 Doris and I joined the Care Compass Network Cultural Competency Committee (represents the Southern Tier Region of DSRIP). We meet twice monthly to discuss the Cultural Competency Project under DSRIP with several project deliverables due quarterly.

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On October 22, 2015 Doris and I spoke with Gary Haugland about reaching out to the faith-based community. We are planning to hold a “conversation” meeting in April inviting the faith community to talk about Mental Health needs.

### **Conclusions**

CRMAC will continue to coordinate with NYS OMH Bureau of Cultural Competency and NYS Multicultural Advisory Committee in order to help providers and community members learn/implement cultural competency best practices.

Meetings for 2016 are as follows: February 18 at 1pm, May 18 at 10:30am, September 22 at 10:30am and December 8 at 10:30am. All meetings are held at the Broome County Public Library (Exhibit Room, upstairs) at 185 Court Street, Binghamton, NY 13901