

Multicultural Conference Committee Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2016

In Attendance: Keith Gerber, Melanie Ginsberg, David Hymowitz, Almas Merchant, Paula Pontrelli, Gladys Serrano, Norissa Williams

- The meeting was opened with introductions and by thanking each one for attending the meeting. Melanie indicated that the last time we had a MAC Conference was in 2013
- There was a brief recap of how we have arrived at today's meeting and our task to design the 2016 Multicultural Conference around Coalitions and bringing resources together to meet MH disparities
- As a committee we discussed the date for this year's conference as either the third week in June, Friday, June 10 or 17 or September 23 or 30, 2016 (location to be determined but considering Adelphi University). Melanie is looking into the use of Adelphi University's conference center.
- We discussed a conference format that involves a half day, beginning with a panel, break out workgroups and closing with a plenum. We will provide breakfast.
- There was a discussion highlighting Coalition trends and the elements that may come together for the theme:
 - Funded vs. Non Funded Coalitions, discussed issues related to funding
 - Tie to the community; Dr. Kirkland Vaughans was mentioned
 - Schools and Jericho Wellness Coalition and ASPIRE workers conference day
 - LI Youth Safety Coalition – how some coalitions have transcended their original missions, touching on all things that affect families and youth: -poverty, diversity, language barriers, internet safety, driving,-traumatization, sexual orientation, Substance, gangs
 - Themes, Advocacy, Funding, Program and Service Development, support to schools, clinics and agencies
 - CASA
 - Long Beach Aware – Judi Vining
 - Rockville Center Coalition for Youth
- We discussed creating a resource book of Coalitions
- Discussed hosting RMAC prior to the conference date to tie to community meeting that was held in Feb. 2016
- The goal of the Conference was discussed and defined as bridging or merging the work of Coalitions, A "Super Coalition" linking to community and mental health, wellness or wholeness
- Melanie will attempt to secure location at Adelphi for June and then set the next meeting date.
- Meeting adjourned after acknowledgement that a lot had been accomplished in a short time period. Next meeting will take place at the NCDMHCCDDDS offices, date to be determined. Meet at the side door for entrance into building after calling David's cell at 631-572-4193. Melanie or Yvonne will send outlook invite for meetings.