



New York Coalition for Asian American Mental Health
General Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, November 16, 2010

Location: NYS Psychiatric Institute

1. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Irene Chung, President.
2. NYSPI Center for Excellence for Cultural Competence (NYSPI-CECC): Dr. R. Lewis-Fernandez, the Director of the Center introduced the mission of the Center, which is to advance the knowledge and practices of culturally and linguistically competent mental health services for underserved culturally and ethnically diverse people with serious mental illness. The Center is funded by NYS and was initiated under a grant to develop cultural care management approach for Latino consumers. Current projects of the Center include: A project for Integration of Health and Mental Health for People with Serious Mental Illness, with an aim to prevent premature death as a consequence of the individual's mental illness, as well as a photo-voice project where consumers can document accounts of their integrated physical and mental health recovery process. The Center also publishes a Culture Competence Matter Newsletter, which is available through the NYSPI Website. It was suggested that this site should be linked to the Coalition website to increase readership. Dr. Doris Chang reported that she is currently leading a project for the Center to develop a culture competent model focusing on language accessibility for mental health consumers with limited English proficiency. Features include language interpretation through video-conferencing, making interpretation services available to limited English proficient consumers in rural areas. Discussion was held on how best to recruit monolingual Chinese participants in this project. Suggestions include: Recruiting subjects through the mass and public media (radio and Chinese newspapers), incentives – e.g., shuttle bus, car fares, reimbursements for time, evaluation and referral services after the end of the 3 months study period. Kin Wah also noted that NAAPIMHA has developed a curriculum for training culture competent mental health interpreters and that it might be a good resource for this project. Dr. Larry Yang reported that he is working on a project to develop stigma reduction intervention – utilizing various modalities including NIMA's model in providing psycho-education to family caregivers. Dr. Yang is currently working with the Chinatown Psycho-Education Family Support Group and another group in New Jersey on this project and hoped to be able to develop a template in a few months. The Coalition members thanked the NYSPI-CECC staff for their presentation and for hosting the general meeting and hope that they would consider joining the Coalition as members.
3. Community Mental Health Education Workshop - The Coalition was invited by Councilman Peter Koo and Assemblywoman Grace Meng to co-sponsor and conduct a community mental health education workshop at the Flushing Library in Queens. This workshop was held on November 16th, after a press conference held on November 12th in Flushing. Volunteers from the Coalition include: Tracy Luo, Steven Zhou, Hui-Ling Hsu, Pamela Yew Schwartz, and Kin Wah Lee. The workshop, conducted mainly in Mandarin, was well attended and mental health brochures, developed by our Coalition members were distributed. It was apparent from this event that there is a great need for



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mental health education and assistance. Many participants stayed after the workshop asking for referrals and more information. There was a suggestion that future workshops and conferences should be video-recorded so they can be made available for video-streaming on the Coalition website for public education purposes.

4. Conference on Loss and Bereavement: Cultural Aspects of Grief among Asian Americans: The conference was held at the NYU School of Medicine on October 11th with over 140 attendees. The conference was very well received. Dr. Kathleen Shear, the keynote speaker has extended an invitation for the Coalition to meet with her and her staff. AAPA (Asian American Psychological Association) has also approached the Coalition to develop a proposal for a special journal issue on grief and bereavement. A subcommittee (Pamela Schwartz, Elizabeth Lee, Tazuko Shibusawa, Grace Wong, Winnie Kung, Ed Ma) was formed with Tazuko as chairperson to explore this possibility.
5. Sunshine House – Dr. Jackie Xu Zhen, currently in private practice after leaving South Beach Psychiatric Center, has just launched a Chinese-American Sunshine House modeled as a club house for mental health consumers, as mental health service in Brooklyn is very limited. Dr. Zhen stated that this program is a personal initiative being run by volunteers, but hopefully, will be funded by NYS OMH one day. The Chinese-American Sunshine House is located at 837 58th Street, 3rd Floor, Brooklyn. It was suggested that Dr. Zhen should speak to Peter Yee, as Hamilton Madison House has been exploring the possibility of opening outpatient services program in Brooklyn.
6. Dr. Myung Soo Lee, Director of Suicide Prevention from Seoul, Korea is currently enrolled in the fellowship program at NYSPI. He was invited to possibility speak about the Korean mental health services system at the next general meeting, which will most likely be hosted by Lutheran Medical Center. Dr. Yen Ling Chong will confirm the details.
7. Shu-Wen Liu, who attended the recent Loss and Bereavement Conference in October, expressed her thanks and appreciation to the Coalition for hosting such events as she stated that there are not a lot of opportunities for interested individuals to attend conferences/workshops which address Asian American issues. Further discussion included the possibility of setting up a mentorship program among Asian mental health professionals through the Coalition. Chyna Wu, a bereavement consultant, who also attended the Conference suggested that loss and bereavement should continued to be a focus of the Coalition and would be interested in participating if there is a plan to pursue the establishment of a center for death and dying.
8. The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. with the announcement that the next meeting will be held on December 16, 2010, location of meeting to be finalized.