



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

Date: Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Location: Elmhurst Hospital Medical Center

- 1. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Irene Chung, President.*
- 2. Presentation by Dr. Braden Hexom, Associate Director of Elmhurst Hospital's Libertas Center, a program for torture survivors - Dr. Hexom, who is an emergency doctor, stated that Elmhurst is one of the most diverse communities with many members who have been victims of torture. It is estimated that 10% of the foreign born claimed to have suffered some degree of torture (subjected to physical or mental violence, imparted on them as punishment or a mean of political intimidation by a group or an organization). The Libertas Center for Human Rights is a comprehensive program established through a grant written by the emergency department, to provide medical, legal and medical-social assistance to refugees with asylum claims. Services provided are case dependent, which ranges from medical treatment for residuals of torture or referral for legal or mental health services as many may suffer from PTSD, depression, or suicidal ideation. The two physicians in this program were trained at Bellevue, which has a program for over 15 years, seeing over 800 cases a year. Currently, the program has no waiting list and there is no catchment requirement.*
- 3. Overview of Elmhurst Hospital Center's Asian Mental Health Program - Steven Zhou stated that it was the advocacy efforts of the Coalition which has resulted in the expansion of the Asian program many years ago. The outpatient program serves over 300 Chinese and Korean patients (approximately 200 Chinese and 100 Koreans). Pat Hernandez also stated that Elmhurst's adult mental health clinic serve over 2000 patients. There are 11 ambulatory behavioral health programs (including adult and child/adolescent partial hospitalization programs, WTC Expansion Program, and school-based mental health programs) servicing a community with 46 spoken languages. There is also a mobile crisis unit (718 334-3443) serving Western Queens.*
- 4. Overview of Elmhurst Hospital Center's Partial Hospitalization Program for Adults (OMH licensed Program) - Liliana Bellini presented an overview of the program, which provides services designed to help stabilize adults experiencing acute psychiatric symptoms while at the same time enabling them to remain in the community. Patients enrolled in the program have a length of stay of 6 weeks and they attend the program 5 days a week from 9 am to 3 p.m. daily. Patients are assigned to a psychiatrist, a nurse and a care coordinator. The program's current census is 30 and services mostly English and Spanish speaking patients.*
- 5. Update on the "Loss and Bereavement among Asian American" Conference on October 22, 2010 - The program has been finalized with help of many members nominating speakers as well as to participate as presenters at the conference. We were also able to invite and add Dr. Lloyd Sederer to give an opening remark. Kin Wah Lee distributed a*



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preliminary program and encouraged members to distribute and inform others who might be interested in attending this conference. Anyone interested in volunteering to help at the conference should contact Kin Wah or Joy at NYCAAMH@Yahoo.com

- 6. Study on Mental Health Clinician's Experience with US Born Chinese American Children of "Reverse Migration" - Dr. Annie S. Li, a child and adolescent psychiatric fellow at NY Presbyterian Hospital - Weill Cornell Medical Center and Columbia University announced that she is currently recruiting clinicians who in their clinical practice had encountered Chinese American children and adolescent that have experienced "reversed migration" as part of her research to study attachment issues with these children. Anyone who can assist or interested should contact her at asl9005@nyp.org or call 212 746-3756 for more information.*
- 7. Study on Individuals with Repeat Suicide Attempts - Dr. Irene Chung reported that she is embarking on a two year study on the clinical/psychological profile of individuals with repeat suicide attempts to gain better understanding of the risk factors as well as protective factors. This project currently undergoing various IRB reviews will involve chart reviews of hospital records (at Bellevue and Elmhurst Hospitals) as well as following the status of these individuals at their outpatient care.*
- 8. Irene Chung thanked Elmhurst staff for their presentation and for hosting the Coalition's general meeting and special thanks to Steven for coordinating the arrangement and the presentations.*
- 9. The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m. with the announcement that the next meeting will be held on November 18, 2010, location of meeting to be announced.*