



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES

PO BOX 362
5 COMMERCE WAY
TRENTON, NJ 08625

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SARAH ADELMAN
Commissioner

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

VALERIE L. MIELKE, MSW
Assistant Commissioner

June 14, 2022

Dear Colleague:

The Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) has a long-standing commitment to the provision of multicultural and diverse services. This letter is in reference to our initiative regarding the quality of care to ethnically and culturally diverse consumers in our behavioral health system. Culturally responsive skills can improve engagement and therapeutic relationships, as well as, treatment retention and outcomes. Cultural competence and the ability to address diversity within the populations we serve is an essential ingredient in decreasing disparities in behavioral health.

Many years ago, DMHAS committed funding and resources to enhance and improve service delivery to consumers in our serving district via two multicultural training centers. These training centers were contracted to provide cultural competence expertise with regards to training and technical assistance.

Many of you already have detailed service plans for addressing culture and diversity within your agencies and are now in the implementation phase of your plan. Some agencies have not yet begun to develop a formal plan for cultural and linguistic competence. No matter where your agency may be in this process, DMHAS is asking you to take part in a regional cultural competency informational session that will assist you in satisfying the State's requirement for this initiative.

Our two Cultural Competence Training Centers will offer four (4) regional technical assistance workshops, specifically designed for the following leadership positions at your agency: Executive Director/CEO, Human Resource Manager, Quality Improvement Manager and Cultural Competence Committee Chair. You are only required to attend one of these sessions. They will be hosted regionally, allowing each agency the convenience of attending at a nearby location. They will also be delivered virtually to further support attendance. The goal of these sessions is to gather relevant data to support you in meeting DMHAS mandate for providing culturally competent services to our consumers.

The regional sessions are as follows:

Northern Region

June 21

9:30-12:30

In Person Location: Morris County Public Safety Training Academy, 500 West Hanover Avenue, Morristown, NJ, 07960

Register In Person: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/northern-regionals-technical-assistance-leadership-workshop-tickets-345676145657>

Virtual Location: Zoom

Register Virtually: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-northern-regionals-technical-assistance-leadership-workshop-tickets-345687880757>

Contact Person: Jayme Ganey, FCCultureConnections@familyconnectionsny.org

June 27

9:30-12:30

In Person Location: Morris County Public Safety Training Academy, 500 West Hanover Avenue, Morristown, NJ, 07960

Register In Person: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/northern-regionals-technical-assistance-leadership-workshop-vol-2-tickets-345689866697>

Virtual Location: Zoom

Register Virtually: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-northern-regionals-technical-assistance-leadership-workshop-vol-2-tickets-345691993057>

Contact Person: Jayme Ganey, FCCultureConnections@familyconnectionsny.org

Central/South Region

June 29

9:30 am-12:30 pm

In Person Location: RWJ Hamilton, 3100 Quakerbridge Rd, Mercerville, NJ 08619

Conference Room A/B

Register In Person: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/regional-summit-centralsouth-region-leading-with-cultural-competency-tickets-349070488227>

Virtual Location: Zoom

Register Virtually: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/regional-summit-centralsouth-region-leading-with-cultural-competency-tickets-349095503047>

Contact Person: Dr. June DePonte Sernak, june.depontesernak@centerffs.org

June 29

1:30 pm- 4:30 pm

In Person Location: RWJ Hamilton, 3100 Quakerbridge Rd, Mercerville, NJ 08619

Conference Room A/B

Register In Person: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/regional-summit-centralsouth-region-leading-with-cultural-competency-tickets-349091521137>

Virtual Location: Zoom

Register Virtually: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/regional-summit-centralsouth-region-leading-with-cultural-competency-tickets-349092373687>

Contact Person: Dr. June DePonte Sernak, june.depontesernak@centerffs.org

Thank you for your commitment to serving the consumers in our State!

Sincerely,



Valerie L. Mielke, MSW
Assistant Commissioner

c: Renee Burawski
Harry Reyes
Dave Helfand
Steve Fishbein
Elizabeth Conte