



C A L I F O R N I A D E P A R T M E N T O F

Mental Health

1600 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 654-2309

February 11, 2011

Scott Gruendl
Director, Glenn County Department of Health Services
Chair, CMHDA Small Counties Committee
242 N. Villa
Willows, CA 95988

Dear Mr. Gruendl:

I am writing in response to your letter dated January 5, 2011, in regards to your request to extend the submission deadline for Small Counties by six months, for the Cultural Competence Plan Requirements (CCPR) Modification detailed in the Department of Mental Health (DMH) Information Notice 10-17. Thank you for articulating your appreciation for our office's efforts to support Small Counties as they develop, complete, and submit their county's plan to reduce disparities for the unserved, underserved, and inappropriately served multicultural public mental health communities. Your comments spoke poignantly to the continued commitment DMH/OMS has both for county efforts as they implement cultural competence planning objectives and for those multicultural communities who lack access and quality of mental health care. OMS is pleased Small Counties are encouraged by our efforts.

To continue fairness for all counties in California who are required to submit a working cultural competence plan to DMH, the protocol will continue to be that those counties who are requesting to extend their CCPR Modification submission deadline, shall, in written communication (email included), provide a justification and proposed extension submission date. County submission extension requests will continue to be considered on a case by case basis.

Our office is committed to providing on-going technical assistance as delineated below to Small Counties as they complete their CCPR Modification:

- Toll free conference call question and answer sessions individually with counties;
- OMS's website support that details Frequently Asked Questions, data resource links, webinar technical assistance handouts and presentations, cultural competence assessment resource links, and training curriculum recommendations;
- Webinars, teleconference and face to face opportunities for technical assistance;
- Small County Q and A opportunity conducted at the Social Justice Advisory Committee meeting in December;
- Future dissemination of an approved scoring tool to Small Counties;

- Regular and clear communication to stakeholders such as your organization, CMHDA.

As you know, OMS released DMH Information Notice 10-02, the original CCPR, in January 2010, informing stakeholders that an abridged (or modified) version of the plan for Small Counties would be released after thorough vetting with CMHDA's Small Counties Committee. Consequently, Small Counties were informed the modified version would be edited; however, it would continue to include all eight Criteria originally in the CCPR. After the release and dissemination of the CCPR Modification in mid August 2010, Small Counties, via regional Ethnic Services Manager meetings, requested an in-person comprehensive technical assistance CCPR Modification training opportunity in Redding. To support Small Counties, OMS and the Superior Region Ethnic Services Managers mutually agreed upon a date that would allow for a six week notice to county staff to participate in the training. Furthermore, an Overview of the CCPR Modification webinar was conducted three weeks prior in November, to prepare and encourage participants to attend the face to face training in Redding on December 10, 2010.

Additional support of Small Counties lies in the inclusive, transparent, and comprehensive vetting process of the Scoring Tool; as such, OMS will release the tool once it has been vetted and approved by DMH. The vetting process is a thorough process, including meetings with the DMH Cultural Competence Advisory Committee, Center for Multicultural Development at the California Institute for Mental Health, and CMHDA committee members.

OMS looks forward to working with Small Counties and providing continued support in the completion of the CCPR Modification.

Sincerely,



MARINA AUGUSTO, Acting Chief of the Office of Multicultural Services

cc: Cliff Allenby, Acting Director of the Department of Mental Health
Stanley Bajorin, Chief Deputy Director
Stephanie Welch, Associate Director, California Mental Health Directors Association