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Possible MHSA Language for TAY Resource Guide Chapters

Below is some language from various MHSA resources that pertain to cultural competence. Some of these concepts could be added to update our original document or replace language to more closely reflect MHSA concepts.

Chapter IV – Cultural Competence

Consumer Outcome – Emotional and spiritual well being

Values that drive strategies – Consumer and family driven, culturally competent staff is core value, quality and practice accountability

The implementation of MHSA serves as a tool to transform the public mental health system. The term transformation was selected to ensure that what resulted from MHSA implementation would be significant and substantive changes to the community mental health system. Transformation includes – community collaboration, cultural competence (reducing health disparities), client/family driven, wellness focus, (recovery and resilience) and integrated systems within the mental health system.

County Mental Health Directors support this shift in focus as directed by their Social Justice Strategic Framework adopted by CMHDA in 2008. The primary goal set forth in this framework is to “advocate for equity and full inclusion of vulnerable populations and secure social justice as measured by access to necessary quality services that promote mental health, wellness, resiliency and recovery in our communities”.

Key phrases – ethnically and culturally unserved and underserved populations.

Target populations include – individuals/families from cultural and ethnic communities and age groups where data indicate disparities in access to services.

MHSA – changing lives, investing in communities

Making investments to building a skilled and culturally diverse workforce

Implementing culturally competent services and learning new strategies to reduce ethnic and cultural disparities in access to quality services and filling gaps in existing services and addressing immediate and unique local needs such as the needs of returning Iraq and Afghanistan combat veterans and inmates released from state prisons with significant mental health disabilities.

Innovations for reducing disparities –

Expand and increase partnerships working with community based organization who specialize with underserved ethnic and racial populations. These partnerships could include creating referral networks for non-traditional healing, wellness strategies and neighborhood and family strengthening programs.