National Network to Eliminate Disparities in Behavioral Health Care (NNED)

**Vision:** All culturally, racially, ethnically diverse individuals and families live healthy, thriving lives and participate in supportive communities.

**Mission:** To build, partner with, and sustain a national network of diverse racial, ethnic and cultural communities and organizations to promote policies, practices, standards and research to eliminate behavioral health disparities.

### Mental Health and Substance Use Disparities are “Wicked Problems”

- Highly complex, intractable social problems
- Wicked problems that defy precise definition, cut across policy and service areas
- Multiple contributing factors: poverty, language barriers, structural/organizational racism/ethnocentrism
- Resist solutions offered by the single-agency or “silo” approach
- Traditional ways of working add to the problem by further fragmenting/dividing services and people
- We need to work in new ways, thinking beyond traditional approaches

### National Network to Eliminate Disparities in Behavioral Health Care: Key Assumptions

- Around the country, there are pockets of excellence in reducing disparities
- There is a wealth of information, insights and knowledge that is not being shared
- Research and policy efforts often lack the connection to, and depth of involvement of, the very communities they seek to serve
- Lack of coordination of information stymies forward movement
- Need for Public Health Approach: Promotion, Education/Awareness, Outreach and Engagement, Prevention, Treatment, Maintenance/Recovery
- A network structure will help to identify, collect and develop innovative solutions for communities

### National Network to Eliminate Disparities in Behavioral Health Care: Structure

- Community and Ethnic-Based Organizations & Networks
- Knowledge Discovery Centers
- National Facilitation Center

The NNED structure consists of three interlocking entities:

- Community and Ethnic-Based Organizations & Networks
- Knowledge Discovery Centers
- National Facilitation Center (National Alliance of Multi-Ethnic Behavioral Health Associations)

### Community and Ethnic-Based Organizations and Networks (CEBONs)

- Define and document problems
- Promote new perspectives
- Exchange and share information
- Create opportunities for community partner involvement
Knowledge Discovery Centers (KDCs)

- Redevelop frameworks for research on disparities
- Research community-defined best practices
- Provide TA and consultation
- Support a community of learners
- Engage communities in partnerships

NNED Facilitation Center

- Develop and maintain an infrastructure
- Identify and link entities
- Share information and disseminate knowledge (website)
- Coordinate, track, monitor NNED projects
- Implement NNED communication strategy
- Provide TA training vehicles
- Design and maintain website
- Develop and implement funding plan

NNED Partnerships

Types of Partnerships
- Individual – cannot serve on Steward Group or ad hoc committees
- Organizations
- Networks

Criteria
- Acceptance of the NNED code of ethnic, values, principles, approach, way of doing work
- Commitment to donate time for NNED strategies
- Strive to become more CLC competent, focus on eliminating disparities

Responsibilities
- Host learning strategy (conference, teleconference, webinar, newsletter)
- Increase awareness of NNED (put a NNED link on website, highlight in communications, etc.)
- Create linkages
- Identify community best practices

Principles and Values

- Excellence in behavioral health through collective advocacy and action
- Soft power process
- Inclusion
- Community
- Respect, trust, and reciprocity
- Strength-based policies, practices, and research
- Holistic view of health, wellness, and recovery
- Developmental lifespan
- System intersections
- Flexibility

Outcomes

- PRIORITY AREAS IDENTIFIED critical to disparities elimination
- LINKAGES between community providers and organizations in diverse communities and knowledge discovery centers
- INFRASTRUCTURE for data collecting, analyzing and disseminating information, data, best practice, research and policy
- CAPACITY BUILDING through learning collaboratives, internet training strategies, and community action
- TARGETED ACTIONS through community collaboratives to impact disparities
- NATIONAL INFLUENCE to focus on elimination of disparities
- COORDINATED RESPONSES for recommended policy, practice and research direction to the field
- COMMUNITY & SYSTEM CHANGE through changes in knowledge, attitudes, behaviors of individuals
- BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISPARITY ELIMINATION to ensure access to and availability of culturally appropriate, high quality, results-producing care.

National Network to Eliminate Disparities in Behavioral Health Care: PRIORITY AREAS

- Community-Defined Evidence Models to Measure Practice Effectiveness
  (inventory of effective, community-based practices; discovering criteria for community-defined evidence, etc.)
- Anti-Stigma and Behavioral Health Education Campaigns for Diverse Groups
  (Ad Council and diverse community leaders to develop culturally appropriate messages, vehicles, and strategies)
- Community Engagement Models
- Workforce Development
- Integration of Health/Behavioral Health
Questions for our audience

To help us grow the NNED:
- Do you know of pockets of excellence doing good work to eliminate disparities?
- Are you aware of other networks to link with the NNED?
- What are some of the other systems to involve?

If you want more information...

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