NYAPRS Cultural Competence Committee Minutes
November 12, 2015

Present: Casey Ciceron, Harvey Rosenthal, Tom Templeton, Theresa Hall, Jeff McQueen, Teena Brooks, Malika Mohamdi

1. **Mission & Vision:** Jeff McQueen started the discussion off with wanting to evaluate the operations and objectives of the committee. Jeff would like to establish a subcommittee (with distinctive roles ex: secretary, and giving assignments to committee members) that would help the committee in reaching its goals. Jeff would also like the committee to hold trainings at the Annual Conference and throughout the community.

2. **Policy Update:** *National* - Harvey and Tom are currently analyzing and assessing the Murphy Bill to provide a response with NYAPRS’ position.

Harvey briefly went over the background of the bill. Rep. Tim Murphy first introduced H.R. 3717 in 2013, which NYAPRS and many other advocacy groups found to be deeply flawed. A modified version of the bill, H.R. 2646 came out in the beginning of the year and has provisions that NYAPRS still find to be harmful. Some of the criticisms of the bill include the creation of more incentives and what appears to be a requirement for involuntary outpatient commitment, the drastic reduction in important programs overseen by SAMHSA, and limited HIPPA protections.

Advocates (including NYAPRS) agree that there is a broken mental health system in which much more needs to be done, but with a different vision. Advocates would like more dollars invested in to growing community services (urgent care, upstream, immediate response etc.). Advocates believe that providers should release more information to family members to help the health and safety of the individual. SAMSHA should not be eliminated, but could benefit from a little more moderation.

The Murphy Bill does reference Culture Competence: Minority Fellows (Murphy was going to cut it), criminal justice diversion (more is needed), cultural and linguistic workforce training, but has no major initiatives for Culture Competence.

*State* – NYAPRS is placing housing and criminal justice as top priorities for the upcoming budget, and will also track rights and recovery. Medicaid Redesign has promising aspects (i.e VBP, peer support becoming Medicaid funded and credentialed) but is moving quickly. VBP have subcommittees that are working to make sure that the incentives relate to Culture Competence.
3. **Annual Conference 2016**: Harvey asked the committee for some feedback regarding the site for the Annual Conference 2016 to bring back to the Board. The committee felt that although the current site isn’t in the best shape, it is accessible, offers a large space to accommodate all of our workshops & activities, and provides a strong sense of community all at a low price for attendees.

4. **Assigned Task**: Committee members need to review the CCC section of the website for any changes that are needed.

    *Minutes respectfully submitted by Casey Ciceron*