



Department of
Mental Health



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Contact: Multiethnic Advocates for Cultural Competence
Charleta B. Tavares, Executive Director, (614) 221-7841

ctavares@maccinc.net

Contact: Ohio Department of Mental Health
Jamoya Cox, (614) 728-5687

Jamoya.cox@mh.ohio.gov

Statewide “cultural competence” definition to be adopted at conference

The Multiethnic Advocates for Cultural Competence, Inc. (MACC) and the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) will unveil a **State of Ohio Cultural Competence Definition** on Sept. 24 at MACC’s annual training conference in Worthington. The definition was developed by state departments and MACC to lay a foundation for building cultural competence in the state of Ohio. At a noon award luncheon, a signing ceremony will be held for various state agency representatives to officially sign off on the definition.

The 2010 Annual Meeting and Statewide Training Conference, Sept. 23-24 at the Doubletree Hotel at 175 Hutchinson Ave., will focus on “The Cultural Mosaic of Latinos In Ohio: Care, Commitment and Competence.” Featured speakers include Juana Bordas, founder of Mi Casa Women’s Center in Denver and author of “Salsa, Soul, and Spirit: Leadership for a Multicultural Age,” and Guadalupe Lara, owner of G.G. Lara Consulting and former director of Social Work for the Detroit Medical Center Corporation.

The Cultural Competence Definition signing ceremony will occur during the 5th Annual “Enlightened Kaleidoscope” Award luncheon at noon on Friday, Sept. 24. The 2010 award recipient is Cheryl Boyce, executive director of the Ohio Commission on Minority Health, for her commitment to eliminating health disparities, leadership in advocating for the needs of Ohio’s racial, ethnic and cultural communities, and advocacy for culturally appropriate services.

MACC is a statewide membership association of health, behavioral health, education, social service and other care providers, administrators, professionals, consumer/family members and advocates dedicated to making Cultural Competence a best practice in Ohio’s systems of care.

“The work of MACC is instrumental in developing strategies to assist the Ohio Department of Mental Health in eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in behavioral health,” said ODMH Director Sandra Stephenson. MACC and ODMH have worked collaboratively to address disparities in mental health over the last decade.

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Ohio Department of Mental Health
30 E. Broad Street, 8th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3430
<http://mentalhealth.ohio.gov/>

Multiethnic Advocates for Cultural Competence
1335 Dublin Road, Suite 105 C
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.maccinc.net