



Culture Connections

Your CC News & Updates

May 2020 Family Connections' Culture Connections News!

We first want to acknowledge the ongoing concerns regarding COVID-19 and affirm that we are hopeful and solution focused in supporting our community of providers and clients. We have made temporary changes in our services to reflect the needs and the directives from the CDC and state, and we encourage you to stay connected via our webinars, newsletters, web-site and via email/phone for updates and support.

Our mission is to improve mental health services and outcomes in northern NJ by enhancing the cultural competence of mental health professionals...

And we're excited to share with you some news about our program and team, as well as some resources and upcoming services!

Check out the news below and online for more updates. Have a great day, full of healthy connections!
#WhereHopeMeetsPossibility

Visit our Website

Upcoming Training

October 26-27, 2020
Cultural Competency Conference

**"Overcoming Incomplete Impressions:
Dismantling Conscious and Unconscious Bias
in Behavioral Health"**

Presented by Family Connections and the Center For Family Services

Our annual conference will be a collaborative effort by both Cultural Competence Training Centers. Save the date and stay tuned [here](#) for updates.

SAVE THE DATE



&



Present the 1st Annual Statewide:

Cultural Competency Conference:

"Overcoming Incomplete Impressions"

Dismantling Conscious and Unconscious Bias in Behavioral Health

October 26-27, 2020

DoubleTree Hotel Tinton Falls-Eatontown, New Jersey



Service Spotlight

The Advantages of Cultural Competency on the Board

Leading with Cultural Competence can shape an organization from the inside out. We asked one of our Family Connections board members, Felicia Fdyfil-Horne, LCSW, about her thoughts on the importance of leading at the organizational level:

1. **What benefits are there to having diversity and cultural competency within the board for themselves and the organization they serve?**

"Diversity and cultural competence are vital and crucial to the governance of a board and an organization.

Being diverse and operating with a cultural lens gives an organization an advantage with decision making, planning for the future, managing potential risks and identifying opportunities for growth. It is also important to be in touch with the needs and values of the communities served. Diverse cultural perspectives can uplift, inspire and enhance creativity."

2. What does the manifestation look like in board discussions?

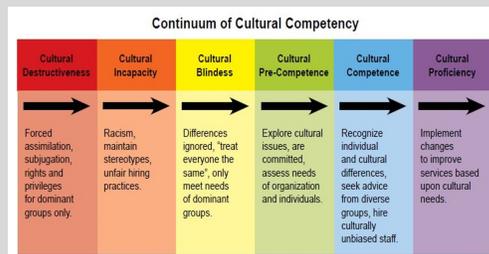
"Every board member brings their own experiences and perspectives into board discussions. These diverse experiences provide board members with the opportunity to communicate and effectively understand each other's perspectives. By utilizing these different experiences we are able to ensure our decision making is inclusive and mutually beneficial to the Family Connections community. Representation is key and on a personal level it was important for me to join a board that led with a level of sensitivity to cultural differences and community needs."

3. What is your hope for mental health substance use agencies with regard to cultural competency?

"My hope is for the leaders to continue to learn and grow based on the needs of community members. I hope to continue to learn from programs like Culture Connections to enhance professional development, open dialogue and peer support. These safe spaces allow for the expansion of our own knowledge base regarding cultural competency and its importance to the work that we do everyday."

Learn more about how cultural competency shapes the [Family Connections team and services](#).

Striving for Cultural Proficiency in 2020!



Awareness

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

While celebrating these cultures and the diversity within them, here are some resources to increase your cultural competency with colleagues and communities you serve, and to motivate you to continue to be aware of the possible needs of clients who identify as Asian American or Pacific Islander.

- Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders — a FAQ NBC News asked academics and experts about why certain words and phrases are (or aren't) used to describe Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/asian-americans-pacific-islanders-faq-n998661>
- U.S Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health: Mental and Behavioral Health of Asian Americans: <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/browse.aspx?lvl=4&lvlid=54>
- 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Asians/Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders (NHOP): https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt23248/3_Asian_NHOP1_2020_01_14_508.pdf
- National museums, services and government entities join in paying tribute to the generations of Asian and Pacific Islanders who have enriched America's history and are instrumental in its future success: <https://asianpacificheritage.gov/>

Have resources to inform organizations and colleagues about Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage and health data? Share [here](#) for our growing resource library.