

County Executive
Ann Edwards

Deputy County Executive
Chevon Kothari
Social Services



Department of Health Services
Timothy W. Lutz, Director

Divisions
Administration
Behavioral Health
Primary Health
Public Health

County of Sacramento

June 21, 2023

Dear Community Partner,

Sacramento County Behavioral Health Services (BHS) understands that behavioral health inequity is caused by inequities in social determinants of health such as housing, education and income level that disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). It is important to also recognize that these inequities are, at core, caused by racism. BHS continues to work to eliminate systemic racist practices that drive behavioral health inequities by expanding the Behavioral Health Racial Equity Collaborative (BHREC) to include the Latino/Latinx/Hispanic (L/LX/H) communities.

Part of the BHREC process to eliminate racial inequities in behavioral health includes documenting the voices of various community groups through community forums, focus groups, as well as capturing the voices of interested key community members through key informant interviews. Insights gained from the forums, focus groups, and key informant interviews will be used to develop themes, strategic directions, and recommended goals for the L/LX/H BHREC.

For the past eight years, the California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions (CIBHS) has worked with the Sacramento County BHS to advance behavioral health equity and ensure cultural humility is at the foundation of behavioral health services in Sacramento County. CIBHS is a statewide, behavioral health consulting organization dedicated to advancing equity in public behavioral health access, quality, and outcomes. CIBHS will facilitate a process with community organizations, residents, and interested community members to inform and shape the direction and recommended goals of the L/LX/H BHREC.

We are excited to begin this work with you and look forward to sharing the results of the initial findings and updates on these efforts soon and over the course of many months.

Page 2
Community Partners
June 21, 2023

A communication plan is being developed to keep the community informed on the evolving work BHREC is doing to improve BH services for the L/LX/H and Black/African American/African Descent communities. If you have questions, comments, or feedback please email DHS-BHS-BHREC@saccounty.gov.

Thank you in advance for partnering with us on this journey.

Sincerely,



Ryan Quist, Ph.D.
Behavioral Health Services Director