

Multiethnic Advisory Committee Information Sheet

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) supports equity in health care for individuals receiving services through their public health and behavioral health systems. Problem Gambling Services achieves this through consultation with the Multiethnic Advisory Committee.

Mission statement:

Expand and increase awareness of problem gambling and availability of treatment services to culturally and ethnically diverse populations and create a supportive community with a focus on inclusivity and strengths.

Goals:

- Bridge the access gap for historically underrepresented communities within our service system.
- Support OHA in cultivating community connections and resources for problem gambling services statewide.
- Create a forum of multiethnic representation across the state to provide a unified voice for consumer and providers of services.
- Provide recommendations to OHA regarding removing identified barriers to access and engagement for persons and families impacted negatively by gambling.

History:

The PGS Latino Advisory Committee, originally formed in 2007, from a conference that brought Spanish speaking BH providers together to address disparity of cultural

representation among this population in our programs. This group continued to meet, advise, and develop strategies for PGS on expansion of treatment services, workforce development and community education.

In the spring of 2009, PGS begin meeting with representative members of the Asian American population forming an Asian American Advisory Group. This group also hosted a Summit of BH professionals serving this population and collected feedback from participants to develop plans to increase awareness and education to this population and treatment programs to serve this specific population.

In 2014, the two groups combined as both groups found that they were advising and strategizing related to similar barriers to form the PGS Multicultural Advisory Committee. In early 2016, the committee incorporated representation from the African American population and in 2017, the Native American population also joined. In 2024, the committee change their name to the PGS Multiethnic Advisory Committee.

What can the committee do for you?

The PGS Multiethnic Advisory Committee assists the Problem Gambling Services system in development related to culturally specific services and programs to eliminate health disparities among specialty populations by providing the following:

- Monitor and evaluate gambling treatment services and data related to culturally specific services for adults.
- Identify needs and recommend strategies to PGS that improves utilization, efficacy, access and satisfaction (e.g. availability, retention, and outcomes) among culturally specific gambling treatment services.
- Enhances the quality of care for individuals receiving culturally specific gambling treatment services funded by PGS.
- Identifies emerging issues for culturally specific communities, advise PGS on problem gambling treatment, prevention, and outreach strategies.
- Identifies current problem gambling workforce strengths, needs, gaps and makes recommendations for plan to build a quality culturally specific PGS workforce.

Membership:

Membership is open to any PGS and BH multicultural or multiethnic providers/clinicians. Current membership represents the Latino, African American, Native American and Asian American populations.

Want to be a member?

This groups focus is to advise OHA PGS staff and system related to program development from a multicultural and ethnic lens. Those eligible to attend the meeting are those who provide culturally specific services and have a passion for gambling disorder services and/or can assist with this lens.

Those attending this meeting should represent a multiethnic population and be interested in activities of this group. If you are interested in attending a meeting and possibly becoming a member, please contact the Problem Gambling Services Manager for dates and times of upcoming meetings.

To learn more:

For more information regarding the PGS MAC or to get in touch with a representative on the committee, contact Greta Coe, Problem Gambling Services Manager at greta.l.coe@oha.oregon.gov or 503-602-4444.

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer free of charge. Contact Problem Gambling Services at pgs.support@oha.oregon.gov.

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