



National Center for Cultural Competence

Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development
University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
3307 M St., NW, Suite 401
Washington, DC 20007-3935
800. 788.2066 or 202. 687.5387
202 687.5503 (TTY) 202. 687-8899 (fax)
cultural@georgetown.edu (E-mail)
<http://gucchd.georgetown.edu/nccc> (Web page)

Key Considerations for Practitioners Related to Cultural and Linguistic Competence

- Does the mission or program goal include a commitment to cultural and linguistic competency?
- What is the program's policy for the provision of interpretation and translation services?
- What is the program's policy about complementary and alternative medicine?
- What is the program's policy for professional development and inservice training related to:
 - acquiring knowledge of health beliefs and practices of individuals and families served?
 - acquiring knowledge of mental health beliefs and practices of individuals and families served?
 - including healers, medicine men, curanderas and other traditional/indigenous practitioners in the delivery of health care and mental health services?
 - working with interpreters and cultural brokers?
 - enhancing cross-cultural and interpersonal communication skills?
- Is there a structure within the program to bridge the gap between current research and implications for clinical practice for racially, ethnically and linguistically diverse groups?
 - Are there program staff who routinely survey research studies and emerging bodies of evidence?
 - Is there a mechanism to examine research findings and their implications for policy and clinical protocols within the program?
 - Is there a program emphasis to either contribute to and/or examine current research related to ethnic and racial health and mental disparities and quality improvement?
 - Is there a mechanism to keep abreast of new developments in pharmacology, particularly as they relate to culturally diverse groups?
 - Is there a forum to share research interests related to health and mental disparities?
- Does the program provide evidence-based or best practice interventions that have proven efficacy for specific racial and ethnic populations?
- Are there structures (formal and informal) for program staff to share perspectives about the opportunities and challenges of providing health care and mental health services to culturally and linguistically diverse populations?