Refugee Mental Health Training 2012

Sponsored by MCC Refugee Services

Facilitator and Presentor for all sessions:

Sue Johnston, LICSW is a clinical social worker. She maintains a private practice in South Minneapolis. She has worked in the field of mental health for more than 25 years. She recently completed a three year ORR grant funded project with Refugee Services, Minnesota Council of Churches as a Refugee Mental Health Liaison. She continues to consult with MCC in addition to working with the Karen Organization of Minnesota around mental health needs. Sue has specialized training in working with psychological trauma. She is an EMDR Level II therapist. She has also completed the Harvard Refugee Trauma Certificate Program.

Refugee Mental Health in Minnesota - March 30, 2012

Additional Presenter Bios:

Eh Taw Dwe is the Vice Chair of Board of Directions of the Karen Organization of Minnesota. He played an integral role in the creation of KOM. Eh Taw arrived in the U.S. in 2004 as a political refugee. Shortly after, he became employed by Ramsey County Public Health, where he still works today. He also works with Dr. Patricia Shannon at the University of Minnesota to develop a mental health screening tool for new refugees. Eh Taw is a tireless advocate for Karen people and often does training for mainstream service providers on working with Karen people.

Tonya Cook was a founding board member of the Karen Organization of Minnesota and played an important role in the initial development of the organization. She also served as the Resettlement Director of World Relief Minnesota for over five years. Tonya is currently pursuing a Masters of Social Work degree and is doing a clinical field placement with Sue Johnston, LICSW, working with Karen refugees.

Rachele King is the Director of Refugee Services for the Minnesota Council of Churches, an affiliate of two national resettlement agencies contracted through the US Department of State to provide resettlement services to refugees in the United States. She has worked in refugee resettlement agencies for fifteen years, developing and providing services to meet the needs of refugees in Minnesota.

MCC Refugee Services Staff: Various staff members including Case managers and Employment Counselors, and immigration staff will be on hand to provide experiential learning about the resettlement process for refugees. MCC Refugee Services has a staff of 20 who speak more than 15 languages and serve approximately 700 refugees each year through four lines of service which include Case management, Employment, Immigration, and Education.
Sharmake Muse arrived as a refugee through MCC as a refugee in 2010. He is from Somalia, and spent most of his life in Refugee Camps in Kenya. He has been a member of the MCC Refugee Speakers Bureau since shortly after his arrival and frequently shares his story and experience to groups. He resides in Minneapolis.

Refugee Mental Health: Assessment, Diagnosis and Treatment – April 27, 2012

Additional Presenter Bios:

Abdulahi Mohamed, LICSW, is currently a psychotherapist in a private practice at Metro Behavioral Health. He obtained his MSW from the University of MN in 2005. He has extensive social services experience and has worked at Lutheran Social Services as an Employment Counselor; Dakota County as a Financial Worker, DHS as MNCare Representative and Social Work Specialist; CUHCC Clinic as a Behavioral Health Case Manager, and Hennepin County as a Children’s Mental Health, Child Crisis Team Senior Social Worker. He is bilingual in English and Somali.

Stephanie Spandl, LICSW, More Multicultural School for Empowerment. Stephanie has a B.A. in Spanish and Elementary Education and a Masters in Social Work and Theology. She currently works as the Social Services Program Manager for More Multicultural School for Empowerment.

Day Wah, More Multicultural School for Empowerment, is an advocate at More School. She is a Karen refugee from Burma. She was in Mae La Camp in Thailand and came to the U.S. as a refugee. She has a degree in nursing, equivalent to an AA degree.

Dr. Todd Sigler is a Licensed Psychologist, a Nationally Certified Counselor and a registrant of the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology. He maintains a private practice in Arden Hills, MN and participates in a group practice in Maplewood, MN. Dr. Sigler received his BA degree from the University of MN in psychology in 1990; his Master’s degree from the University of St. Thomas in 1997, and his doctoral degree from the University of St. Thomas in 2002. He completed a postdoctoral residency in diagnostic assessment, psychological testing, and substance abuse treatment. He has specialized training and experience in: working with individuals with developmental disabilities and traumatic brain injury, psychological assessments, cognitive, personality, and adaptive behavior testing, psychological evaluations for immigrants and refugees, and conducting diagnostic assessments and psychological testing for individuals who have been referred by their attorney to determine if there is a disability or impairment that adversely impacts the patient’s ability to learn a second language.

David Schuchman, MSW, LICSW, has been in the mental health field for over 34 years, 30 of which have been as a supervisor and manager. He was a mental health supervisor at Community University Health Care Center (CUHCC) in Minneapolis for 15 years. His primary role there was directing the provision of mental health services to Southeast Asians, Latinos and Somalis. For the last nine years there he developed and managed CUHCC’s Somali Mental Health Program. He is currently Director of Immigrant and Refugee Behavioral Health at Volunteers of America-Minnesota Mental Health Clinics. He also teaches “Clinical Practice with Immigrants and Refugees” at the University of St. Thomas graduate
school of social work. He has given numerous presentations on refugee and immigrant mental health with an emphasis on Somali mental health and is called on to consult about refugee and immigrant mental health. He has also presented on cross cultural health, communication and supervision. David has been on the Board of Directors of the Confederation of Somali Community in Minnesota since 2002 and the Somali American Parent Association since 2010.

Dr Chhabbi Sharma – Bio Pending

Alice Tindi – Bio Pending

Pari Byzavi – Bio Pending

Refugee Mental Health: Working With Interpreters – June 8th 2012

Additional Presenter Bios:

Alejandro Maldonado – Bio Pending

Native Speakers – 20 former refugees from various countries

Interpreters – representing for various refugee languages

Refugee Mental Health: Working with Survivors of Torture – June 8th, 2012

Additional Presenter Bios:

Abbey Weis, PHD. Center for Victims of Torture - Bio Pending

Refugee Mental Health: Psychological Testing with Limited English Proficiency Clients –

Note: This workshop is only for psychologists who are licensed to provide psychological testing or psychologists working towards such competencies.

June 8th, 2012 Additional Presenter Bio:

Dr. Todd Sigler is a Licensed Psychologist, a Nationally Certified Counselor and a registrant of the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology. He maintains a private practice in Arden Hills, MN and participates in a group practice in Maplewood, MN. Dr. Sigler received his BA degree from the University of MN in psychology in 1990; his Master’s degree from the University of St. Thomas in 1997, and his doctoral degree from the University of St. Thomas in 2002. He completed a postdoctoral residency in diagnostic assessment, psychological testing, and substance abuse treatment. He has specialized training and experience in: working with individuals with developmental disabilities and traumatic brain injury, psychological assessments, cognitive, personality, and adaptive behavior testing, psychological evaluations for immigrants and refugees, and conducting diagnostic assessments and psychological testing for individuals who have been referred by their attorney to determine if there is a disability or impairment that adversely impacts the patient’s ability to learn a second language.