Health Equity Planning & Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS)

Technical Assistance Offerings

Connecting to Care is a federally funded initiative focused on improving the state's behavioral health system for children. In order to best serve all children with behavioral health needs in our state, the services that children and families might benefit from must be racially just, culturally responsive, and linguistically appropriate.

Building off of the National Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards and in alignment with the Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF) racial justice framework, we offer a blueprint for child- and family-serving organizations to implement racially just and culturally and linguistically appropriate services that will advance health equity, improve quality, and help eliminate disparities in access and outcomes in children's behavioral health.

Connecting to Care provides technical assistance in a variety of modalities to assist organizations do this using the CLAS Standards and supporting in the development of Health Equity Plans. Health Equity Plans are intended to assist organizations in advancing principles of health equity, improving quality of care and services, and helping eliminate health disparities. Plans developed in collaboration with the Connecting to Care initiative focus on the federal Office of Minority Health's CLAS Standards and align with the DCF's statewide racial justice framework.

Technical assistance is meant to be individualized to organizational context, and participation amongst any of the following activities are at the discretion of the organization. A number of consultants provide technical assistance across the areas of initiation, implementation, evaluation, and sustainability. Technical Assistance is expected to be available from 2020-2024. For additional information contact Lisa Palazzo at lisa.palazzo@beaconhealthoptions.com.

AREAS OF HEALTH EQUITY & CLAS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

INITIATION/ENGAGEMENT	IMPLEMENTATION	EVALUATION	SUSTAINABILITY
❖ Health Equity Planning & Technical Assistance Introductory Course ❖ Health Equity Toolkit Training ❖ Assess, Plan, & Improve: An Equity Workshop ❖ Cultural Humility & Implicit Bias Training ❖ Self-exploration of the Health Equity Toolkit	❖ 3-6 month Cohort Process using the Four-Phase Model of Change	❖ Health Equity Outcome Measures ❖ Health Equity Data Strategic Planning ❖ Additional Individualized Technical Assistance	❖ Regional Learning Communities

Menu of Available Technical Assistance

Activity	Description	Contact Information
Health Equity Planning & Technical Assistance Introductory Course	This 60 minute introduction explains how to utilize the 4 phase model of change to help organizations implement racially just and culturally and linguistically appropriate services that will advance health equity, improve quality, and eliminate disparities in access and outcomes in children's behavioral health. *Note: This training is not limited to behavioral health organizations.* **Time:** 60 minutes **Audience:** Champions of Racial Justice and/or Senior Leadership within an organization	Cecilia Frometa, Ph.D. cecilia.frometa@yale.edu
Health Equity Toolkit Training	This training will support organizations in exploring the "Advancing Health Equity and Racial Justice in Children's behavioral health Toolkit" and begin their work in creating a Health Equity Plan. An essential component of the Health Equity Plan is the integration of the enhanced National CLAS Standards. *Note: This training is not limited to behavioral health providers.* **Time:** 90 minutes **Audience:** Champions of Racial Justice and/or Senior Leadership within an organization	Cindy Crusto, Ph.D. cindy.crusto@yale.edu
Assess, Plan, & Improve: An Equity Workshop	Do you know what the Culturally & Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards are? Attend this workshop and learn how to implement the CLAS Standards in your everyday work. This workshop will focus on: • Familiarizing yourself with the National CLAS Standards	System for Education Equity & Transition (SEET) Michele Stewart-Copes, MS, MSW

	• Learning how to operationalize and implement the National CLAS Standards in your everyday work • Increasing your knowledge of and ability to implement the National CLAS standards to address health equity, racial justice, and health disparities **Time:** 90 min **Audience:** Anyone working directly with children and families or individuals	michelesc@targetpcs.com Marie Spivey EdD, RN, MPA mmtatem@yahoo.com
Implicit Bias and Cultural Humility Training	Acknowledging the reality and role of implicit biases in guiding behaviors and beliefs can result in actionable and effective solutions to facilitate and improve relationships. This training will build and foster understanding of implicit biases and cultural humility. A framework for positive attitude development and the facilitation of reciprocal open questions will be cultivated. **Time:** 2 hours **Audience:** Anyone working directly with children and families or individuals	System for Education Equity & Transition (SEET) Michele Stewart-Copes, MS, MSW michelesc@targetpcs.com Marie Spivey EdD, RN, MPA mmtatem@yahoo.com
Self-exploration of the Health Equity Toolkit	Connecting to Care published a free, self-guided Health Equity Toolkit, ***Advancing Health Equity and Racial Justice in Children's Behavioral Health***. The toolkit is designed to help organizations develop their own Health Equity Plans. View the toolkit by clicking here. **Time:** Self-paced **Audience:** Champions of Racial Justice and/or Senior Leadership within an organization	Health Equity Toolkit

CTC Connecting to Care

Activity	Description	Contact Information
3-6 month Cohort Process using the Four-Phase Model of Change	This technical assistance process assists organizations with health equity planning through: • Attending bi-monthly meetings, participating in training, and receiving individualized support in completing a Health Equity Plan; • Utilizing Connecting to Care's Health Equity Toolkit that focuses on how organizations can create internal policy, systems, and agency changes that prioritize health equity. *Note: Commitment letter will be obtained prior to joining.* **Time:** 3-6 month process **Audience:** 1-3 representatives with an organization that will become the conduit for change within the organization and bring information back to all employees	Cecilia Frometa, Ph.D. cecilia.frometa@yale.edu

EVALUATION

Activity	Description	Contact Information
Health Equity Outcome Measures	Technical assistance available to a limited number of organizations on evaluation of Health Equity plan outcome measures using logic models, Plan Quality Index, or other strategies. **Time:** 2 hours **Audience:** Organizations that have already developed a Health Equity Plan and want assistance with evaluation and measurement	Cindy Crusto, Ph.D. cindy.crusto@yale.edu

Additional Individualized Technical Assistance (as resources permit)	More intensive individualized technical assistance for organizations who previously attended the 6 month cohort process (as resources permit).	Contact Lisa Palazzo at lisa.palazzo@beaconhealth options.com
Health Equity Data Strategic Planning	The CT Data Collaborative will provide consultation to a select number of individual organizations to understand how they collect and use demographic data for incorporation into their Health Equity Plans.	CT Data Collaborative Michelle Riordan-Nold mrn@ctdata.org

SUSTAINABILITY

Activity	Description	Contact Information
Regional Learning Communities	The purpose of the Regional CLAS Learning Communities are to sustain and enhance the work of Connecting to Care. Organizations involved with racial justice work will be invited to participate in the CLAS Learning Communities with a purpose of: • Sharing best practices of implementation of National CLAS Standards • Educating community on health equity diversity and CLAS Standards • Sharing strategies of engagement with families and youth to support agency CLAS activities and progress of health equity plans **Time:** 90-120 min, once per quarter **Audience:** Representatives from organizations that previously participated in cohorts, trainings, received technical assistance from Connecting to Care, or new organizations that want to be part of a Learning Community.	System for Education Equity & Transition (SEET) Michele Stewart-Copes, MS,MSW michelesc@targetpcs.com Marie Spivey EdD, RN, MPA mmtatem@yahoo.com