



CLAS Courier

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OFFICE OF CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE

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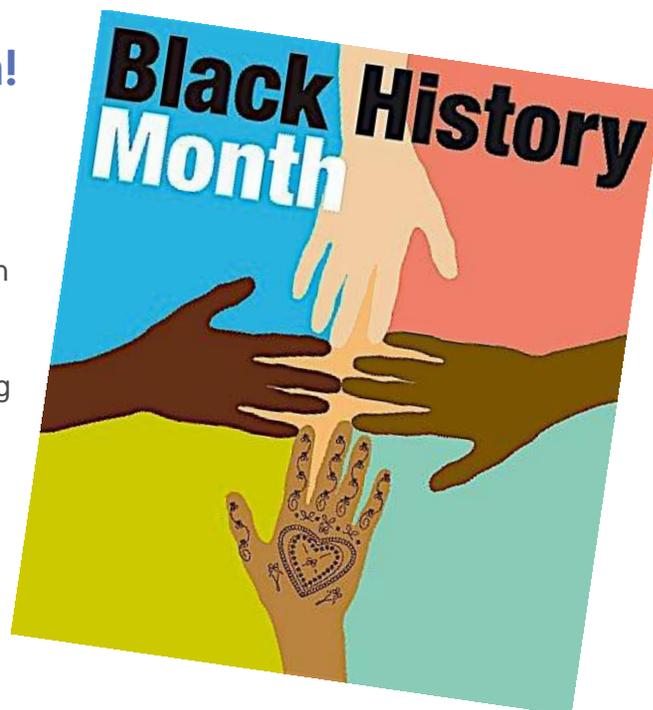
February is Black History Month!

Did you know that African Americans are 30% more likely to report having serious psychological disorders?

Follow the OCLC's webpage honoring African-American healthcare pioneers such as Soloman Carter Fuller and Bebe Moore Campbell while educating yourself of the various behavioral health and disability issues impacting African American communities. Gain access to resources, articles, and handbooks on culturally sensitive services, as well as informational videos on stigma reduction.

Follow the link below to check out our page!

[OCLC African American History](#)



Interdisciplinary Technical Assistance Center
on Autism and Developmental Disabilities

WHAT'S NEW?

**CHECK OUT THE
OCLC's**

2013-14 BIENNIAL
REPORT

2015-16 BIENNIAL PLAN

The purpose of the Interdisciplinary Technical Assistance Center (ITAC) on Autism and Developmental Disabilities at AUCD is to improve the health of infants, children, and adolescents who have, or are at risk for developing, ASDs and other developmental disabilities.

The ITAC Training Toolbox makes it easy for program staff to browse and share innovative training strategies on a variety of topics. In the toolbox, training strategies are categorized by topic, making it easy for you to browse different methods by which others teach important concepts to their trainees, and save strategies you feel could be applicable in your program to a folder of your personal favorites.

[CHECK OUT ITAC's TRAINING TOOLBOX HERE](#)

Roanoke to Train More Medical Interpreters

Eva P. Stitt, Refugee Mental Health Analyst

The lack of language interpreters in a clinical setting was a major issue brought to the forefront of the latest Roanoke Refugee Mental Health Council (RRMHC) meeting. Despite the scarcity of behavioral health providers in this area, establishing the Roanoke Refugee Mental Health Referral System helped locate providers who have made themselves available to service refugee clients. However, having an available provider who does not speak the client's language, the necessary mental health service cannot be delivered without the intervention of a certified interpreter.

On average, Commonwealth Catholic Charities of Roanoke resettles about 175 refugees from various parts of the world. Over the years, thousands of people from Bhutan, Iran, Bosnia, Burundi, Ethiopia, Haiti, Liberia, Somalia, Sudan and dozens of diverse countries call Roanoke home. Many refugees are not employed and experience culture shock as well as social isolation causing them to suffer in silence. In solitude and hopelessness, mental health issues are taking its toll and manifesting through psychosomatic disorders, anxiety disorders, depression, domestic violence, drugs and alcohol abuse, and many other detrimental issues. According to Laxman Bhandari, a Bhutanese community leader and member of the RRMHC, his community needs support in developing preventive activities to minimize the on-set of depression and other mental health related disorders. The issue of mental health care becomes more complex since many refugees lack insurance beyond the initial 8-month Medicaid coverage.

With these resource gaps in mind, the RRMHC decided to take action. Mental health terminology training is scheduled for April 21 to 24, 2015 in Roanoke and will be conducted by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services in close partnership with Commonwealth Catholic Charities. The RRMHC also partners with The Bhutanese Organization of Roanoke, Blue Ridge Behavioral Health, Braley & Thompson, Inc., Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Family Services of Roanoke Valley, LewisGale Medical Center, Mental Health America of Roanoke Valley, and Roanoke Health Department to form the local mental health referral system.



SPIRITUAL HEALING IN MEDICINE

Shamanistic views of mental health vary greatly from the Western medicinal thoughts of mental health and healing. Stephanie Marohn and Dr. Malidoma Patrice Somé explore the spiritual relationship between shamanism and mental health and the dichotomy in healing with Western medicine. To read the full article, visit:

[What a Shaman Sees in A Mental Hospital \(Full Article\)](#)



For more information, please contact us:

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[CHECK OUT OUR BRAND NEW WEBPAGE!](#)