

Promoting Minority Mental Health in Wichita Kansas



Lisa M Harding, M.D, Rachna Kalia, M.D., Matthew Macaluso, D.O.
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, KU School of Medicine–Wichita

Introduction

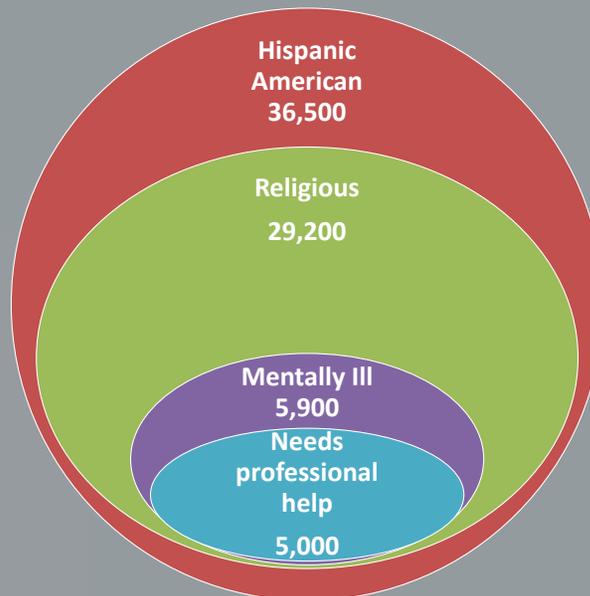
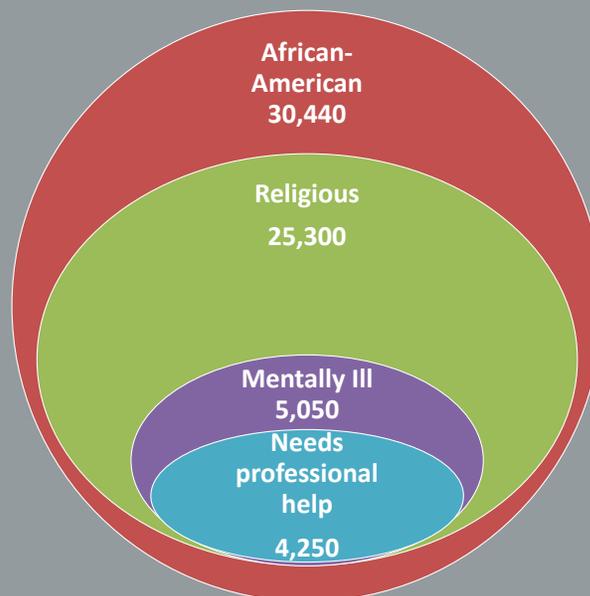
This project aims to increase awareness of professional mental health services amongst minority populations in Wichita. It is significant because more than 80% of ethnic minorities affected by mental disorders do not seek professional help and no program of this nature has been focused on the mental health of African and Hispanic Americans.

Question

Can collaboration with faith institutions lead to greater access to mental health services for minorities in Wichita, KS?

Design

- Collaborate with NAMI and faith based leaders to design a strategy to promote awareness of mental disorders amongst minority faith communities
- Support NAMI in the delivery of FaithNet or other training for minorities
- Create a multi-lingual directory or website of cultural psychiatrist who are sensitive to the cultural aspects of mental disorders.



Method

- Create a survey using NPII and less than 15 questions, polling faith leaders and congregation to understanding the perceptions on mental illness and how they would seek help.
- Work with NAMI Wichita to pilot a 3 hour customized training program, in Spanish and English.
- Create a directory of African American and Hispanic American providers in the Wichita.
- Create a survey, polling faith leaders and consumers of mental health services, that tracks whether we have increased the awareness and use of mental health services in Wichita.

Results

We hypothesize that educating faith leaders about mental health services will improve access to care.

Conclusion

While literature supports the use of faith based collaborations to improve access to mental health services, no such program has been operationalized for populations of African American and Hispanic individuals. This project seeks to pilot such a program in Wichita, KS.