

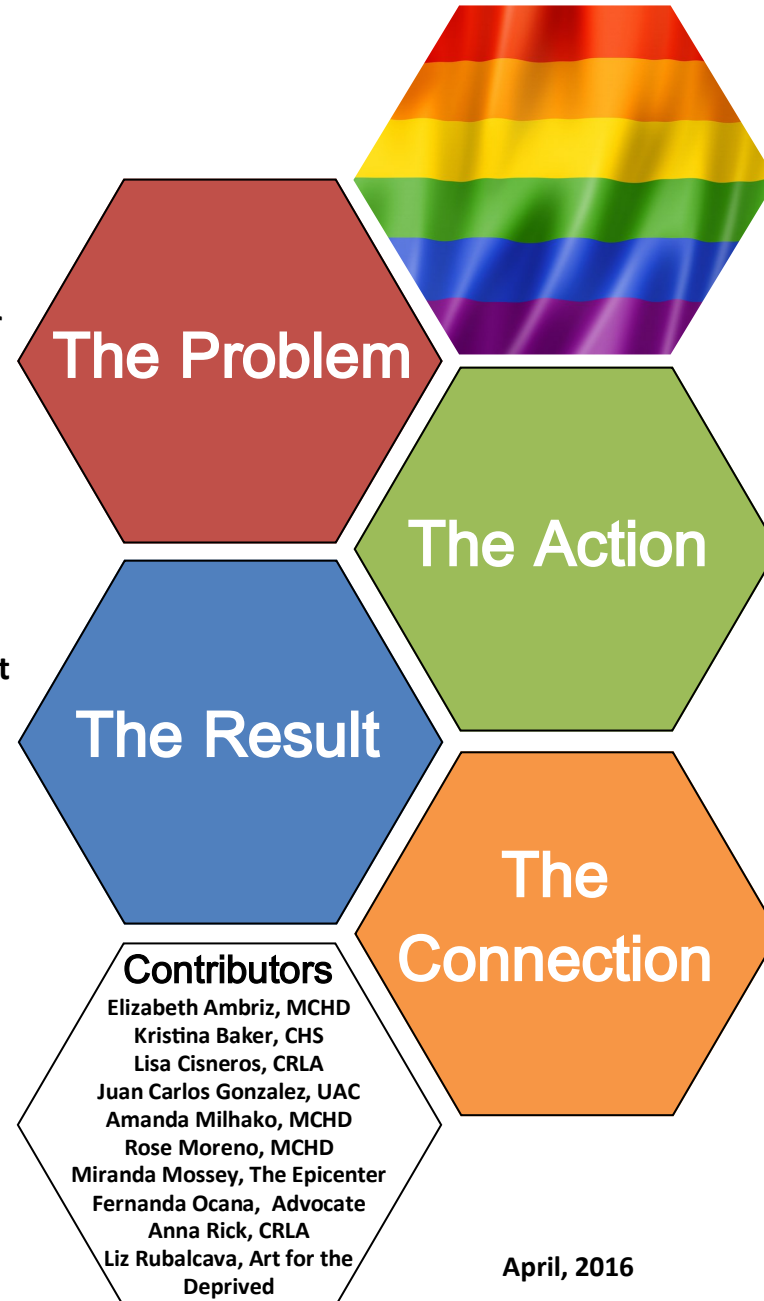


Quality Improvement Success Story



LGBTQ individuals experience tremendous mental health and other health disparities. County and community based agencies lack providers who are culturally and linguistically sensitive on LGBTQ issues and lack sexual orientation and gender identity data collection in their systems. Historical systemic exclusion of data has prolonged disparities in health and welfare.

More than 90 individuals from County and community agencies have been trained on LGBTQ Best Practices as part of a Behavioral Health contract with The Epicenter. More than 400 people attended the documentary film screening 'El Canto del Colibri,' which explores LGBTQ family acceptance in the Latino immigrant community. All Mental Health Services Act Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) service providers will start collecting sexual orientation and gender identity data starting fiscal year 2016-2017 as part of the PEI regulations.



LGBTQ advocates and allies are more powerful when working together. We therefore decided to coordinate our efforts and leverage our resources by forming the Monterey County LGBTQ Collaborative. Partners include Monterey County Health Department, Center for Rural Legal Assistance, The Epicenter, Community Human Services, and The Urban Arts Collaborative. The LGBTQ Collaborative meets on the second Friday of the month at CRLA from 3:15pm-4:30pm.

This QI project reflects Monterey County Health Department's Strategic Initiative #3: Ensure access to culturally and linguistically appropriate, customer friendly services, and the 10 Essential Services of Public Health #3: inform, educate, and empower, and #4, mobilize community partnerships and actions to solve health problems.

April, 2016