

*Exploring the Intersection between Cultural Competency and Managed Behavioral Health Care Policy, Implications for State and County Mental Health Agencies*, is designed to provide practical assistance in considering the issues, challenges and benefits of strengthening the cultural competence of mental health staff and services. This report is based on discussions that occurred during a two-day National Mental Health Policy Institute on Cultural Competency co-sponsored by the South Carolina Department of Mental Health's Cultural Affairs Program, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD).

The Institute afforded participants representing both public and private mental health systems a unique opportunity to reflect and collaborate on the status of cultural competency and its intersection with managed care policy. Participants collaborated in reaching agreement on an operational definition of cultural competency and on the vision and steps required to ensure its increased acceptance and application at both state and local levels.