

WEBINAR VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

DHHS / SAMHSA / MFPCC

MFPCC New Fellows Orientation Webinar (2022)

16 November 2022

INA RAMOS: Hello, everyone. My name is Ina Ramos. And I'd like to welcome you to the Minority Fellowship Program New Fellows Orientation webinar. This webinar is brought to you by the SAMHSA Minority Fellowship Program Coordinating Center.

Before we get started, I'd like to draw your attention to some important webinar logistics. Today's webinar is being recorded and will be made available on the MFPCC website in approximately four weeks.

The views, opinions, and content expressed in this presentation do not necessarily reflect the views, opinions, or policies of the Center for Mental Health Services, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, or the US Department of Health and Human Services.

OK. So, unfortunately, Dr. Anita Everett is unable to join us today. But we're pleased to have, presenting on her behalf, Mr. Eric Weakley, who is the Western Branch Chief in the Division of State and Community Systems Development of the Center for Mental Health services. Mr. Weakley will provide an overview of SAMHSA. Mr. Weakley, the floor is yours.

ERIC WEAKLEY: Thank you, Ina. I appreciate that. And Dr. Everett is sorry she could not be here. There's another presentation that she was asked to do at the same time for one of our grantees. So she couldn't be at both places. And she asked if I could do this. So I'm happy to be here and just want to thank MayaTech for organizing this. And you'll hear more about their work and, also, to the team at SAMHSA you'll be hearing from later.

And, Dr. Outlaw, which I think you'll appreciate her presentation coming up. And just congratulations to all of you, first of all. So this is a competitive program and just want to welcome you all to the MFP family. And our job is to support you in your work and as future leaders in the field and want to, again, just thank you for your work so far and knowing that going forward you're going to even be doing greater things.

So I'll tell you a little bit about SAMHSA and about our work. So SAMHSA is part of the US Department of Health and Human Services.

We are what is called an operational division in HHS, which means we provide grants and technical assistance directly to providers that are-- so in our case, it's community mental health centers, private providers that are providing treatment. We provide prevention services. So all of those direct things, we do.

There's also HHS divisions that are called support divisions. And those are things that, you don't really see them every day, but they support the work of the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Just for SAMHSA, we have an Assistant Secretary. She is Dr. Miriam Delphin-Rittmon. She is also an MFP alumna. And you'll hear more from her later in the year, which is exciting. But she's our Assistant Secretary. And she's a psychologist.

The SAMHSA is divided into four main centers, Center for Mental Health Services, which I work in, the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, and the Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, which we call CBHSQ. And there's also smaller divisions. The center is about 150 employees, more or less. And they're smaller offices.

So we have a policy lab that looks at policy issues and another personnel. And we have another office that looks at fiscal. And they do all the grants and fiscal work.

So within the Center for Mental Health Services we have three divisions. So one of the divisions is the Emergency Mental Health and Traumatic Stress Services. So that is the division that works with disaster recovery. So we have a branch that works with FEMA. So after a disaster they will provide assistance.

We also have a child trauma tool kit-- a Child Traumatic Stress TA center. And they have a tool kit and many other products that are available, focused on working with children. And we started, and I say this-- and starting with Center for Mental Health Services because the Minority Fellowship Program is within CMHS.

So even though many of you are working on substance use issues and also co-occurring, the MFP program mostly is located in CMHS. And we also work with the CSAT and CSAP on the substance-use pieces.

So we also have a child, adolescent, and family division. And that is solely focused on children with serious emotional disturbances and youth that may be exhibiting, for example, first episodes of psychosis or may need other assistance.

The other part of that program, Project Launch and Project Aware, those are all part of that division and really focusing on working with kids. We also do mental health promotion so a lot of work with schools, with reducing school violence.

And we have mental health awareness training, mental health first aid. And that's available to anyone. If you go on our website, you can find out local presenters in your area or how to take it on online.

Another branch within our center is the Suicide Prevention branch. So you may be probably aware that we switched from an 800 number to 988 this year.

So it's one way that we are trying to make it easier for people who are in crisis to call for assistance and also to text. It's a very serious issue, as you know, in the country with around 48,000 suicide deaths every year. We have several grants that work with suicide prevention.

You may be aware of the Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention grant, which was the oldest grant in CMHS for suicide prevention activities and really looking at work on campuses and with students to prevent suicide. We also do suicide prevention work with tribal organizations and tribes. And that's another grant that is available.

And just, in general, with 988, looking to focus on suicide prevention but also anybody in crisis, so including people in any behavioral health crisis that can call the 988. I can just say I know it started in July of this year. In July we saw a 50% increase in the number of calls coming in to the Suicide Prevention, the lifeline.

So it's getting very well known already. And it's an important part of the work that we're doing.

We also have community support programs branch. They are looking at really community-based services, really looking at people who have serious mental illness living in the community. And how do we support them to have the best life that they can have and that they want?

Also, some of the grants that you may have heard of, we have the certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics, CCBHCs, which are providing not only mental health services but also substance use services.

They also have physical health access, and as part of CCBHC's work in the communities through things like ACT programs, which is sort of community treatment programs that are actually going out into the community and assisting people wherever they are and wherever they want to receive services.

And, also, another grant is the Assisted Outpatient Treatment, AOT. This is through courts so it's often-- can be court ordered. But it's really to try to assist people, to help them stay out of the criminal justice system. Because that's another big issue that we are trying to address, is how do we help people who are in behavioral health crisis so that they don't end up in the criminal justice system, where they don't need to be.

And then the last point, here, is some of the outcomes and accomplishments. So right now, there are 166 grants, four CCBHCs in 32 states. And that's expanding almost-- I'd say every day, but every year. It's probably even a little bit over that right now, actually, because FY20. So we're in most states now and trying to reach every state with CCBHCs.

So this is a little bit more than the CCBHC program. I won't go into this in too much detail except that you can see from the slide on the right side, it's really trying to be in an integrated approach. So we're not just looking at providing mental health services or just substance use treatment services. It's really looking at the whole person and also looking at family support.

So it can be a very difficult time for families that don't understand what's happening. And we know from evaluations of programs and research that if we can help families understand, that they can provide the support that people need in the community.

We also have a Homeless Programs branch. And we have homeless programs in a couple of different branches, actually. We're really looking at people who have serious mental illness living in the community. How do we support them? One, if they are living in a kind of a precarious living situation that they're at risk for homelessness, how do we help them stay out of homelessness?

And if they are homeless, how do we help them get into benefits that they are entitled to? How do we help them access treatment so that they can receive the assistance that they need, the support that they need to live independently? And also for families, so how do we support families in that process?

Another grant is treating individuals experiencing homelessness. So this helped about 4,000 individuals in 2020 with assistance to stay out of homelessness.

So another program that, actually, is in our division that I work in is called the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness, the PATH program. So this is similar to the TIEH program but goes out into the community, works with people, again, wherever they are.

Whether they are living in a tent in the community and trying to help them get permanent housing to working in shelters or people that are maybe staying with family, helping them get permanent housing. And the PATH program, I'll just say, that's in every state and territory. So it's called a block grant.

So, basically, every state has a PATH program. So wherever you might be, there are PATH providers in the state. And, usually, depending on the size of the state, there could be anywhere from one or two local programs to the 50 or 60 local programs.

The mental health block grant is what I work with every day. This goes to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands and Pacific jurisdictions. It's a block of money that states can use to assist people who have serious mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbances. It can work with people through ACT programs, help people who are in prison or jail access treatment.

States can use it for planning. So how do they improve their system to make it better? It's a small piece of all the funding that goes into mental health. Last year it was \$850 million for all of the states and territories, which sounds like a lot of money. And it is. But it's about 1% of the overall spending in the public mental health system.

So if you look at any given state, most states are using a lot of state dollars, Medicaid, Medicare, and other private insurance to assist people in the public mental health system. So just a small amount is a block grant. For the block grant in public mental health systems, it's actually a little bit over eight million people were served in 2021.

So it's a lot of people that are served through community mental health centers and other programs through the state mental health authorities. But one part of the mental health block grant, we call it the First Episode Psychosis Program. It was researched at the National Institutes of Mental Health.

It's also called the Coordinated Specialty Care Program. And it's basically trying to help people early in the process so that they don't go for long periods of time without a diagnosis and without treatment. So there are five basic components. So, usually, there's a lead which can be a psychiatrist, a nurse practitioner, could be a social worker or other administrator that's leading the program.

There is case management, medication assistance, supported employment, supported education, and work with the families. So those are kind of the five key components. Almost a lot of programs also have a sixth, which is peer support. Which is also a really, really vital piece. It's an all 50 states and territories.

There's some well known ones which I'm blanking on because I didn't write it down. But OnTrackNY is one. And, Peer, which is out of, actually, the state of Oregon, and some others that are leaders in this field.

So I would say that there have been over 20,000 people that have, in the last-- since 2016, who have gone through an FEP program, which, it can be up to two years of, really, sort of intensive work and support for people that are usually young adults, maybe up to around early 30s. Some programs have a little different age. But that's kind of the focus.

So we also have the PAIMI program, the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness. This is another block grant that is in all 50 states, DC, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Pacific jurisdictions.

So it helps people that are in mainly in psychiatric institutions, hospitals, group homes, that are experiencing abuse, neglect, or exploitation, rights violations. It helps them get the treatment that they need and the respect and human rights and dignity in treatment.

Of course, the MFP program, which you know, that's part of our center. I won't talk too much about that one. Just mainly, SAMHSA is committed to recovery. That's an important piece of the work that we do here. And, CMHS, our center, is committed to that. And we have lots of resources.

So if you haven't had a chance to go to our website, we have many, many guides. We have access to webinars, all kinds of supports for you as you provide service to people throughout the nation. So, thank you, again, for your work.

And I'm going to pass it off to the next speaker, Melissa, Melissa Blackwell. So Melissa is on our team. So Melissa is a social worker and has done a lot of great work at SAMHSA in the Minority Fellowship Program but also with the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Center of Excellence that we have, and also as a project officer with the block grant and other programs. So, Melissa. Thank you.

MELISSA BLACKWELL: Thank you, Eric. I just want to say congratulations and welcome to the Minority Fellowship Program. I would like to start with, my name is Melissa Blackwell. And I'm a Contracting Officer Representative. I work very closely with MayaTech. That's our Minority Fellowship Program Coordinating Center.

And if you have any questions for me, feel free to reach out to me, directly, or with MayaTech. And we work together.

Key SAMHSA resources, we have a behavioral health treatment services locator. So if you would like to check it out for yourself, if you know anyone who is looking for treatment, or you're working with many programs that are looking for treatment, all you have to do is put in your zip code, city, or state. And they'll find the closest or the local treatment facility for substance abuse or mental health.

SAMHSA online resources, we have a SAMHSA store that has a great amount of tip manuals. But I actually had used some when I used to facilitate groups like anger management, coping skills, and all sorts of groups. And they have tip manuals that are very updated and relevant.

And then they have the SAMHSA mobile apps of the publications. SAMHSA Technology Transfer Center, which is really good because it's free. And they provide a lot of training on mental health and substance use, SAMHSA Clinical Support System for Serious Mental Illness.

I work, like Eric mentioned earlier, I work on a block grant, the mental health block grant. Also another form of the grant is the PATH, our homeless grant. And with the block grant they provide funding to

states and other jurisdictions to plan, implement, and evaluate activities that prevent and treat substance misuse, and mental illness, and promote public health.

Also we have discretionary grants under Center for Mental Health Services. And they provide funding to support community-defined behavioral health needs and community-based programs to serve targeted areas across the United States and other jurisdictions.

Funding announcements, so you could go to [SAMHSA.gov/grants](https://www.samhsa.gov/grants) and [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). This is where you'll see the latest funding announcements. And you can sign up with SAMHSA email updates, as well.

But questions about specific grant, you can contact the individuals listed under agency contact and the funding opportunity announcements. There's always a contact person at the end of our page for the FOAs and you can reach out to them for any questions. General questions regarding the grants, you could contact our Division of Grants Management. And the number is there.

For information about serving as a grant reviewer, we do have grant reviewers for SAMHSA. And you can please visit the website for direction on that.

We have internships here at SAMHSA. And SAMHSA Internship Program introduces students to the important role SAMHSA plays in ensuring a productive life in the community for everyone. Interns gain practical experience through projects, special assignments, or research, to support federal, state, and community-based programs, policies, and best practices in prevention and treatment of substance abuse and mental illness.

And here's our website, if you're looking for the internship programs. You can also google SAMHSA internship and it should pop up, as well. Technical assistance resources and data resources, we have programs that offer information and training and technical assistance to improve the quality and delivery of behavioral health services across the nation. And here are our links for these resources.

We have a Center of Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, which is the nation's principal source of behavioral information. And they do a really good job in collecting stats and data. And now we're going to move on to Dr. Outlaw.

FREIDA OUTLAW: Thank you, Ms. Blackwell. And I'm very happy to be here. I'm really happy that MayaTech always invites us to talk about the history. And just as a way of saying congratulations, also, to the new fellows, I am also an MFP alumna from many years ago and have been the recipient in my professional journey of many SAMHSA grants in all of these different programs.

But we're happy that we're asked to talk about history because, as you know, history really is the knowledge that allows us to know where we've been. And where we've been is very important because it influences where we are at present. And we use both our present and our history to continue to create the vision for the future. So my hat goes off every year to MayaTech for inviting us back to do this.

So the history of the Minority Fellowship Program, really, what really happened in layman terms is there were researchers, primarily in sociology, who were looking at what we call now the health disparities. They were looking at the really poor outcomes of BIPOC people in terms of their treatment in mental health and substance use.

And so they traced some, not all, but a lot of it back to the lack of professionals that look like the people that were being served. And a lot of it had to do with clinical application. A lot of it had to do with research. Were we asking the right questions? Were we even-- if the questions were almost right --were we analyzing the data and understanding it in the ways that the people who were a product of the research, the way they understood it.

And so the sociologists talked with people at NIMH. And as we know, NIMH was a big research center. And the same year, out of some of those talks, or associated with those talks, the Center for Minority Mental Health invited the American Sociological Association to submit a grant. And they funded that grant. A small training grant was awarded to sociology for the purposes of supporting doctoral education for ethnic minority researchers and clinicians.

Also at the same time in 1974, and we will be, very soon, celebrating our 50th year, the Minority Fellowship Program. And all the grantees, as well as SAMHSA, we are all engaged now in talking about what that celebration is going to look like. And we're very, very excited about this.

So the grants were awarded to the four core professions at the time, which were the American Nurses Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Sociological Association, and the Council on Social Work Education. So, as I said in the beginning, National Institute of Mental Health was where the original MFP sat. It was the home of the original MFP.

And, of course, the focus-- and I was in that original wave so it tells you something about how old I am -- where the focus was on creating, or developing, educating researchers. And that was '74 up until around 1992, when SAMHSA --when I came into the program, SAMHSA did not even exist. So that tells you something --because I came in around 1980.

So when SAMHSA was developed by an act of Congress, the MFP was transferred to the newly-formed SAMHSA. And the focus, then, went from research but more to application and service and practice. And in 2007, we added some work core professionals, which was a really great thing because it expanded our vision, and our approach, and the importance of families in mental health, and all of that.

And so we added the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy in 2007, in 2012, the National Board for Certified Counselors, and then 2014, the Association for Addiction Professionals. In 2014, there was also the previously titled Minority Fellowship Program was expanded to prepare the core disciplines with the expertise to provide health services to youth.

And that was called the MFP Youth Program. And that program really came out of President Barack Obama's-- of the Sandy Hook shooting, if you remember, the school in Connecticut where all the young children were massacred. So President Obama thought that there needed to be people at the entry level to provide services, really, to people who were experiencing traumas and people who needed mental health services at the entry level.

And so that program was established. And then the program went on to recruit master's level fellows to work with additional under served minority populations. So they no longer limited it to children, youth, and young people in transition, to expand it to across the lifespan.

In 2020, we were excited to add a new grantee. And that's the Interdisciplinary Minority Fellowship Program, IMFP, we call it. And, basically, for some of us who have been in mental health for a long time,

we've known that the model in mental health was interdisciplinary, especially community mental health centers, and sometimes in inpatient units.

I've done a lot of work in inpatient units and we always had an interdisciplinary model. And it's come now to be embedded and imprinted in the new providers who will be coming, that this is an interdisciplinary work. And so this grant has been funded to do prevention treatment, recovery support for racial and ethnic minority populations' co-occurring substance use disorders.

And although the grantee is housed and was awarded to the American Psychological Association, it is a partnership.

So we are trying to represent what we are trying to teach. And that is a collaboration between and among the five other disciplines, the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy, the American Nurses Association, the Council on Social Work Education, the National Board for Certified Counselors, and the Association for Addiction Professionals. So I am going to give it over to Ina, who will do the next piece.

INA RAMOS: Thank you, Dr. Outlaw. So I now turn things over to Dr. Nima Sheth. She's the CMHS Public Health Advisor and the Project Officer for the MFP program. She'll provide information on the MFDP objectives and SAMHSA expectations for MFDP fellows.

NIMA SHETH: So glad to be here with everyone today. So I just want to review a little bit about the purpose and then some expectations of participating in the MFP that we have of the fellows. So, as you well know by now, the purpose of the MFP is to primarily reduce health disparities.

It's not a direct effect on health disparities. But it's a process that we hope, through hiring the fellows and the education that we provide to the fellows, we hope that would result in a reduction in health disparities through the services that they will provide, improving health care outcomes of racial and ethnically diverse populations by increasing the number of culturally competent behavioral health professionals.

And we're really trying to be able to get folks that would be able to provide them with a little bit more support-- financial support, educational support --that are interested in serving under-resourced racial and ethnic populations but otherwise may not have the chance to have the additional training in their program or have resource limitations in doing so.

So some of the goals and objectives of MFP is to increase the number of trained professionals. I should say the trained professionals that are interested in serving in racial and ethnic minority communities, reducing behavioral health disparities we talked about, improving the outcome for ethnic minority populations, providing financial support for the MFP fellows towards their activities to complete training requirements, project requirements, and internships.

Provide access to cutting edge training opportunities, and a lot of these training opportunities are, specifically, working with these populations, mentorship, as well as hands on experiences, a number of different training opportunities, and then providing resources to MFP fellows.

Some of those resources can be, what does the field look like? Where are job opportunities? Where are places to consider practicing? What are the barriers and facilitators to working with this population? And then collecting program data to validate the MFP, as well. So what are some of our expectations of

the fellows? So they're required to commit to a minimum of two years of service in a racial-ethnic minority population after they graduate.

So if you're doing a master's and going on to a doctorate, we can defer that two-year requirement until they're done with their doctorate and, basically, until they're ready to practice. And if they're doing their masters and then they're ready to practice, we would expect that this requirement is in place.

The idea is to work to improve behavioral health conditions of racial-ethnic minority populations and it's really under-resourced racial and ethnic minority populations, assisting SAMHSA in maintaining program funding, strengthening your professional foundation, giving back to the community, especially helping SAMHSA promote the Minority Fellowship Program.

We want to make sure as many people as possible know about this and have the opportunity to take advantage of this. Participate in the MFP community learning.

And this is an important one, completing all the Minority Fellowship Program surveys so that we know what you guys are doing towards the end of your training, as well as right when you're starting as alumni, starting to practice in the community. Because that's one way that we keep track of that two-year requirement. OK, I'll pass it back to you, Ina.

INA RAMOS: Thanks so much, Nima. So I'm now going to provide an overview of the Minority Fellowship Program Coordinating Center and talk a little about the training and technical assistance activities that we conduct throughout the year. All right. So our team, we are here to provide training and technical assistance to the grantee organizations as well as to facilitate trainings for the fellows.

And I'll go into a bit more detail later about some of the trainings and webinars that we do. We work to strengthen communication, improve operations, and increase cultural competence for those providing behavioral health services in under served communities. And we have over 35 years of experience in doing this work, training, and technical assistance around behavioral health, health disparities, and cultural competence.

So our goal is to identify, disseminate, and encourage adoption of promising best and evidence-based practices that will support the work that you all will eventually be doing. We do that through monthly teleconferences with the grantees. We disseminate information through our listserv, which you should have started receiving emails from the listserv.

You got the email about this webinar so, hopefully, you're receiving those. And we also do webinars, a quarterly MFP e-newsletter. And then we have the MFPCC website, which has facts and figures on it. Also contains a resource library and fellows directory. And we do also provide direct technical assistance to the grantee organizations.

And so our team consists of myself-- I'm the Project Director and Senior Technical Assistance Lead. There's also Dr. Gretchen Vaughn, Selina Tewolde, Imani Thompson, and Angelle Tolliver, Suzanne Randolph-Cunningham, and Steve Luckabaugh. And you see here what role each of us plays on this team.

This is the email address where you can contact us, mfpc@MayaTech.com. When you get those listserv messages, it'll come from this address. And then our website is MFPCC.SAMHSA.gov. So now I'll take a

moment to talk about the fellow of the month profile, e-newsletter, webinars, and listserv. So this just goes a little more in depth into some of the TA activities that we do.

So first is the fellow of the month profile. Each month we highlight a current or alumni MFP fellow. This is really an opportunity for fellows to share about their current research and work. And we encourage grantees and fellows to nominate a Fellow of the month. And, please, don't be shy. Feel free to nominate yourself. If you want information on how to do that you can email us at that mfpc@MayaTech.com email.

So next is the MFPE newsletter, which is published quarterly. And it's also posted to the MFPCC website. It's an opportunity for us to share news or current events and topics with the MFP community. Typically, we include two SAMHSA-related articles, also MFP highlights, which are about contributions to the field by grantees and fellows. There are professional development opportunities as well as news and views.

And we really work to incorporate the fellow voice by opening submissions directly from fellows about how they're engaging their communities and managing the day-to-day requirements of the fellowship. You can access the archived newsletters on the MFPCC website, under the newsletters tab.

So this slide just contains pictures of our September 2020 MFPE newsletter. We include articles on First Episode Psychosis, which you heard Mr. Weakley talk about earlier, as well as understanding mental health apps. Each issue, we also highlight, as I mentioned, MFP grantees or alum, and fellows and their contributions to the field. And these last pictures are of the professional development opportunities and news and views sections of the September e-newsletter.

These sections are included every quarterly e-newsletter. And some of the topics that we included last contract year were the MFP Fellowship 101, which provides advice for new MFP fellows. We highlighted two first-episode psychosis programs. There was an article on crisis services for serious mental illness. We highlighted 988 as it was preparing to roll out. And we also had an article on recovery and recovery support.

OK, so we also have the MFPCC webinars. Between February and July of 2023, a monthly webinar is held the last Wednesday of each month from 2:00 to 3:30 PM, Eastern Time. These webinars provide an opportunity to hear directly from expert practitioners in the field of mental health and substance-use disorders.

We will be hosting our third fellows-led webinar this year. The last two that we did both provided an opportunity to learn about current and recent alumni fellow community engagement efforts. And it was really engaging. We look forward to doing it again. It'll be in April. So look out for more information on that and potentially how to sign up to present.

And in 2020 we had some very engaging webinar topics. You see them listed here on the screen. But we did focus on the future of 988 and its role in the child and adolescence crisis system. We also looked at the role of social media in supporting mental health wellness. And so we are excited to bring more engaging content for our 2023 webinar series.

In terms of how to register, webinar notices will be sent via the MFPCC listserv that I've mentioned. So, please, you can add the email to your safe list. If you're not getting emails from us, definitely check your spam. And, again, add that email address to your safe list. At the end of each webinar there will be a

brief feedback form. You'll also receive a follow-up email after the webinar with the link to the feedback form.

We do not currently offer CEUs for our webinar content. However, you may request a certificate of participation and we can provide that for you. Again, questions or inquiries may be sent to that mfpc@MayaTech.com.

And you may also access archived webinars. We'll have the recording, a transcript. That information is available on the MFPCC website under the webinars tab. We do disseminate listserv messages. Probably every two weeks, you'll receive a message. Topics include substance use and mental health, professional development opportunities, and other news and views. We also send out information.

The fellow of the month is disseminated through the listserv. I will also let you know when webinar materials have been posted to the website. And if we're asking for input from fellows for newsletter articles, that will also come from the listserv, as well as the actual e-newsletters.

And so these are just some pictures here of what listserv messages look like. They're titled MFPCC News Alert. And then we identify in the very top who the sponsoring organization is. So, for sample, if it's a webinar, in this example here was the SAMHSA webinar. So we just want you to know that it's not necessarily an MFPCC-sponsored webinar. But we still want to make sure that you have an opportunity to participate in these other webinars and events.

The other picture is of what the fellow of the month listserv message looks like. All right. And these are also images of, for example, you got the listserv invitation to register for this webinar. And then the other picture on the right, that is what the newsletter list, or message, looks like. All right. And now I'll turn things over to Angelle Tolliver, who is the MFPCC Web and IT Lead.

ANGELLE TOLLIVER: Thank you, Ina, and good afternoon to everyone. We will do a quick run through of the MFPCC website, starting with the splash page. Now MayaTech does not manage the content of the splash page. This page is maintained by SAMHSA. But if you were to do a Google search of the SAMHSA MSP program this is probably the first web page you'll see in your search.

The splash page provides an overview of the Minority Fellowship Program and related resources. You can see those links on the actual splash page. You'll also find general information about how to become a fellow. And there is basic information about the MFP Coordinating Center with a link to the MFPCC website. And that link is MFPCC.SAMHSA.gov.

Now the MFPCC login web page is pictured here. The website has both public and password-protected features. The password-protected features are restricted to MFP fellows, alumni, and program administrators. Therefore you must have user credentials to log into the website. We are currently in a process of setting up accounts for new fellows. You should receive your login credentials in about a week or so.

If you have credentials but have forgotten your password, just click on the Click Here button. And that will start the automated password recovery process.

Now, if you still require further assistance, there is a contact administrative link on the password recovery web page that would send an email notification to us. And we'll get back in touch with you and

assist you with whatever your needs are. Now this slide is a screenshot of the profile web page. Once you have logged into the website, just take some time to review and update your profile.

You can get to your profile by clicking the My Account link. And that link is located on the top navigation bar. But you won't see that link until you have logged into the system. It's very important to remember that your profile is the foundation for networking with other fellows and program alumni.

So please take time to complete your profile and keep it up to date because the areas of the interest that you select are used to match you with fellows that share common interests. So once you have completed your areas of interest you can go to the left sidebar and click the My Matches link to see who you are matched with.

You can also change your privacy settings here on your profile and select information that you wish to display. Now, if you wish to hide some of your information, just uncheck the information you want to hide. As you can see here, you also have the option to update your bio. You can change your password here and view the MFP calendar of events.

Now just one important thing to note. After you have updated your profile, please make sure that you click the Update my MF Page Status to set your profile to searchable. If you don't set your profile to searchable you won't be found in the directory. In the MFPCC Resource web page, here you'll find a wealth of searchable information to include-- like I mentioned before --the webinars, archived newsletters, there's articles here, training materials, outcome tools, and other information.

You have the option to search by key word. You can search by the topic area or the strategic initiatives. And those search features are on that left sidebar. Further down, you can also search their resources by profession. Or you can use the Quick Links to find other information.

And you also have the option to suggest a resource. To suggest a resource is a web form that you can use to submit citations and links to resources. When you're doing this, you must submit an abstract or introduction in order to complete the Suggest a Resource form. Now the resources web page is public facing. You don't need a password to use this feature. So you can get started using that, even if you don't have your credentials.

This is a picture of the directory of fellows. You may use a directory of fellows to search an MFP fellow by their first name. You can also search by last name. If you know the discipline, you can search by discipline, university, or state. Or you can select Browse All and that will pull down the entire directory. So this completes the brief overview of the MFPCC website. If you have additional questions or require assistance logging in, please contact us.

INA RAMOS: Thank you, Angelle. So we'll now go to our question and answer period. Vince says, hello, there. Thank you for the helpful presentation. Wondering if there is any current research focusing on Latino, Latina, Latinx mental health and resiliency factors that affect their mental health. I would love to be connected with a person in your department that is currently doing this, if possible.

And so that is a question that-- let me see. Naomi, if you don't mind coming off being mute, are you directing that question to the MFPCC? Or are you just wondering, just amongst your peers, if someone is doing that research?

AUDIENCE: Yeah, I know we need to do a research project for the Minority Fellowship Program. And I have a topic already in mind. And I've met with Dr. Slawski, the research consultant. And I just figured if SAMHSA is already doing something along this area then I would love to be involved, somehow.

INA RAMOS: OK. So that is a SAMHSA question. So we'll take that question and then see if we can get a response for you.

AUDIENCE: Thank you so much.

INA RAMOS: You're welcome. All right. So besides the monthly webinars, are there other meetings for fellows? So the MFPCC does not host any other fellow meetings. I know that you'll have tons of meetings with your grantee organization but the monthly webinars are the only outside training opportunities provided by the MFPCC.

Does this mean MFPCC webinars will only be between February and July of 2023? Yes, that is correct. So we have this webinar in November for the new fellows. And then the February through July webinars are open to the full MFP community.

OK, how is the fellow of the month chosen? Is it based on the number of nominations? So, quite frankly, if you nominate yourself or if someone nominates you, we'll reach out to you to complete the survey. And then we'll highlight you. You being a fellow, that is the requirement. And we want to share any information about what you're doing and highlight your work.

Next question is, please share what you consider contribution worthy, or some past contributions of fellows being selected as fellow of the month. We feel that all your work is contribution worthy. We know that what you're doing is very important to the field of mental health and substance use. And so we want to highlight that. It doesn't have to be anything in particular.

But we ask questions about your current research or your current projects that you're working on. And we include that information. Where is the link to create a profile? So to create a profile, the link, I'll drop it in the chat. But it's also included in every listserv message that comes out. In the very bottom there are two links, one for current fellows and one for alumni fellows. And so I've included in the chat the one for current fellows.

And wondering how to find the places or organizations where I can serve the minority community after I graduate. Nima, do you have any advice for that, if you're on? But I would say that I feel confident that your grantee organization can definitely help you with that and point you in the right direction.

NIMA SHETH: Is that the question around the proof for the webinars?

INA RAMOS: No, the question is they're wondering how to find the places or organizations where they can serve the minority community after they graduate.

NIMA SHETH: Oh. OK, yes. And do you know what? This is a really good question. As of now, yes, the grantee organization that you're working through will help you with that and provide some guidance. I will just say that at SAMHSA we are also working on providing more guidance. And we might have more to come in the next round. But I think right now-- for now I would say that the guidance for that will come from your grantee organization.

INA RAMOS: Thank you, Nima. How do we get proof that we attended the webinars? You will just send an email to MFPCC@MayaTech.com if you'd like to request a certificate of participation. And we'll provide one to you.

Let's see, do MFP alums with NIH grant experience ever support current fellows as Co-PIs on grants? I'm looking for a co-PI mentor on a grant. . That will be a question that I'll have to take back to get a response for you

I am interested in applying for a Summer 2023 internship. Is this allowed while serving as an MFP fellow? The funding will be coming from the same source. So does someone from SAMHSA want to take a shot at this question?

NIMA SHETH: Is Eric on?

ERIC WEAKLEY: I am.

ERIC WEAKLEY: Maybe we can do a joint answer here. So what we've said generally is, consult with your organization, the sponsoring organization. Depending on the internship and its requirements, it's possible that you could. Do you want to add to that or--

NIMA SHETH: We've had questions like this before. I think it partly depends on the workload, if you're doing-- like what your MFP workload is going to be during that internship process and what your internship workload would be. And so I think that's been part of what-- and then we also sometimes have to look at some statutory language around this and probably check with our Department of Grants Management, if there's anything in there.

So we probably have to take this question back and get back to you. But, also, it may depend on the programs that are funding you, like the grantee associations, if you can't fulfill both programs because of the workloads. So I think both of those are factors.

INA RAMOS: Thank you. All right. Is the certificate of participation or attendance required? I would say to check with your sponsoring organization. If they are requiring you to attend, then I would say, yes. But if you're just attending and there's no requirement around it, then no. But it's always nice to have. So if you want one, we can definitely provide that for you.

When we set up our profile, it requests SAMHSA MFP organization. Is the correct selection AAMFT or Interdisciplinary Minority Fellowship Program? So if you are funded by IMFP then that's who you would select, even though you might be affiliated with AAMFT. So if that doesn't make sense, drop another question in the chat.

Just want to clarify, we are supposed to complete six MFP webinars. Can I find more info on MFPCC.SAMHSA.gov? So to clarify, we provide opportunities for six MFP webinars. None of them are mandatory unless your sponsoring organization indicates that they are. So but they're just there for your benefit, for your professional development.

Is an email being sent with login information for the MFPCC website? Or do we need to request an access code? So that's a question for Angelle.

ANGELLE TOLLIVER: The accounts are being currently set up. So you will be receiving an automated email from the system, probably within a week or so. So you don't have to do anything, make any requests. It should come to you automatically. If you haven't received one you can always shoot us an email. But give us about a week and we'll get those out.

INA RAMOS: Thanks, Angelle. So I think I heard something about a required research project for new MFP fellows. Can someone clarify that a bit for me please? So if you have a required research project, that would be required by your sponsoring organization. And so you would need to clarify that with them.

Do webinars from MayaTech count towards the six required MFP webinars? So just to remind you that MFP webinars are not required unless your sponsoring organization says that they are. And so MayaTech and the MFPCC are one and the same.

But if your organization-- so for example, if you're an ANA fellow and they're requiring you to do six MFP webinars, you would need to clarify with them because they also provide you webinars. So our MFPCC webinars may be an option for you to meet that requirement. But I would advise that you get clarification from your sponsoring organization.

All right. Are there any other questions? And if I missed your question, you can unmute yourself and chime in.

AUDIENCE: I'm sorry. I probably missed this but will this be recorded?

INA RAMOS: Yes, the webinar is being recorded. It is posted to the MFPCC website. In approximately four weeks you'll receive an email from the listserv saying that the webinar materials are available. There is a video recording, audio recording, and also a transcript that will be available.

AUDIENCE: Thank you

INA RAMOS: You're welcome. Let's see, what Wednesdays of the month are the webinars held? They are held the last Wednesday of each month.

Fellows are required to commit to a minimum of two years of service in racial-ethnic minority populations after graduation. What if we move out of the United States? Nima, do you want to address that question?

NIMA SHETH: Yeah. Eric, feel free to chime in here. But, unfortunately, if you move out of the US then that would no longer count as the requirement. So then you wouldn't be fulfilling the T.O. requirement because you're not serving in the US.

ERIC WEAKLEY: We have talked with the different organizations and delayed. So for example, we've had people that have been in the military or had to move for other reasons. And they've been able to work out with the organizations for a delay in their service period.

NIMA SHETH: That's such a good point. Thanks, Eric. We've had people that will come back and do it. I think working out a plan with your organization, they can work with you to figure out a way to try to complete it. I think, in the past, when this has come up, there's been different ways to problem solve. The grantees try to work with everyone's schedule to make this happen.

But if you know for a fact that-- ahead of time if that's that's something that you won't be able to fulfill, then we'd say that might not be a good fit because that is a requirement. But definitely talk with your organization and see if there is a way we could creatively problem solve.

INA RAMOS: Thanks so much, Nima and Eric. So last call for questions.

AUDIENCE: I do have a question, just as far as the link that you sent. And I might have missed this part. But when it's asking the MFP program area, are we choosing the master's fellow MHC or AC?

INA RAMOS: Mm-hmm.

AUDIENCE: Which one are we supposed to choose, I guess?

INA RAMOS: And which link for the--

AUDIENCE: The one that, I guess, is for the SAMHSA-- fellow profile.

INA RAMOS: OK. What program are you in?

AUDIENCE: Marriage and family therapy.

INA RAMOS: OK. And so, then, are you a master's youth fellow?

AUDIENCE: Master's youth, yeah.

INA RAMOS: So you will select the master's fellow with the y on the end. So the AC is for Addictions Counseling. The MHC is for Mental Health Counseling. And those are typically the NBCC master's fellows. And then there's just the regular master's fellows. But we'd like to try, if you're focused in a particular area, then we want to highlight that.

AUDIENCE: OK, yeah. I'm just specifically in the marriage and family therapy.

INA RAMOS: OK, so you can select master's fellow youth with the Y--

AUDIENCE: OK, thank you.

INA RAMOS: You're very welcome. All right, any other questions? All right. Hearing none, we would like to thank you for joining us on this webinar today. And we hope that this information has been informative.

In closing, we would like your feedback on today's webinar. Upon leaving, a new browser window should open that includes the link to the survey. You may also access the feedback survey link that is found in the Zoom group chat. And this concludes our webinar. Thank you.

ERIC WEAKLEY: Thank you so much. Thank you, everyone.