

CRA: Behavioral Health Services



Pathways: Essentials of Culturally Responsive Practice



*Design your journey. Deepen your impact.
Shape your path toward equity-centered care.*

In the CRA-BHS series behavioral health and substance use treatment Program Managers, Direct Service, and Administrative staff will gain specific skills to improve culturally responsive and appropriate services, in order to reduce health disparities and improve health equity in the County of San Diego's Behavioral Health System.

Each class will explore a different topic related to enhancing culturally responsive practice. Learners will have the opportunity to choose from our array of class offerings, and tailor the series to their specific needs.

Successful completion of the series will include attendance and participation in at least 3 of the offered classes, and participation in a simulation day. Learners who fulfill all requirements will be awarded a certificate and recognized during the virtual graduation ceremony.

Learning Objectives:

- Recognize ways that assessing cultural resilience and strengths can improve cultural responsiveness in behavioral healthcare and substance use treatment settings.
- Discuss the impact of culturally influenced communication, including nonverbal cues and other forms of communication, on trust and rapport-building within your organization and/or with individuals and families receiving services.
- Examine organizational policy and practice to identify opportunities to improve culturally responsive engagement with individuals and families receiving services.



Audience

Suggested for:
Program Managers
Direct Service Staff
Administrative Staff

This class is open to staff members at all levels from San Diego County BHS and its contracted programs.



Delivery Dates

Sep 17, 2026 – Apr 29, 2027



Interest Form

To learn more about this series and the available course offerings, please complete the:

[CRA-BHS Interest Form](#)

to receive an invitation to the Pathways Orientation.

Contact

For more information or to answer any questions you may have, please contact the CRS team at:

Academy-CRS@sdsu.edu



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Culturally Responsive Academy (CRA) is a delivery of Cultural Responsiveness Services, a program of the Academy for Professional Excellence at SDSU School of Social Work.

CRA-BHS: 2026 – 2027 Courses



Fall Semester

	Course Name	Dates and Times	Delivery	CE's
1	Harm Reduction - Pathways to Healing and Recovery	Sep. 17, 09:00am – 04:00pm	Class	5.5 hrs.
2	Minority Stress Model: Health Disparities Experienced By Minority Groups (race/ethnicity, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation)	Sep. 30, 10:00am – 11:00pm	Webinar	1 hr.
3	Breaking Cycles: Understanding Epigenetics and Generational Trauma in Practice	Oct. 13, 09:00am – 04:00pm	Class	5.5 hrs.
4	Culturally Responsive Communication: Building on Cultural Resilience and Strengths to Overcome Service Barriers and Bias	Oct. 29, 09:00am – 04:00pm	Class	5.5 hrs.
5	Considerations for Care in a Border City: Providing Culturally Responsive Services for the Latine Community	Nov. 10, 09:00am – 04:00pm	Class	5.5 hrs.
6	Prevention Before Intervention: Recognizing Housing as a Social Determinant of Behavioral Health	Nov. 17, 10:00am – 11:00pm	Webinar	1 hr.
7	Strategies for Culturally Responsive Engagement, Continuous Improvement and Accountability in Behavioral Health and Substance Use Treatment	Nov. 19, 09:00am – 04:00pm	Class	5.5 hrs.
8	Navigating Courageous Conversations surrounding Ethical Dilemmas in Behavioral Health and Substance Use Treatment	Dec. 08, 09:00am – 04:00pm	Class	5.5 hrs.
9	Pathways: Simulation Day	Dec. 10, 09:00am – 04:00pm	Simulation	5.5 hrs.

Winter/Spring Semester

	Course Name	Dates and Times	Delivery	CE's
10	Courageous Conversations to Destigmatize Care: Culturally Responsive Methods to Increase Willingness and Decrease Shame in Pursuing Mental Wellness Conversations: Transforming Provider Culture from Awareness to Equity	Jan. 28, 09:00am – 04:00pm	Class	5.5 hrs.
11	Culturally Responsive Approaches to Suicide Prevention & Postvention	Feb. 09, 09:00am – 04:00pm	Class	5.5 hrs.
12	Cultural Responsiveness Courageous Conversations: Transforming Provider Culture from Awareness to Equity	Feb. 24, 09:00am – 04:00pm	Class	5.5 hrs.
13	Diversity in Neurodiversity: How Intersectionality Affects Diagnosis and Experience	Mar. 09, 10:00am – 11:00pm	Webinar	1 hr.
14	Working with Justice-Involved Individuals	Mar. 19, 09:00am – 04:00pm	Class	5.5 hrs.
15	Culturally Responsive Communication: Building on Cultural Resilience and Strengths to Overcome Service Barriers and Bias	Mar. 25, 09:00am – 04:00pm	Class	5.5 hrs.
16	Courageous Conversations in a Climate of Fear and Harm: When Politics, Rhetoric, and Media Target Identities	Apr. 01, 09:00am – 04:00pm	Class	5.5 hrs.
17	Protecting Empathy in Practice: Avoiding Burnout in an Emotionally Intense Environment	Apr. 21, 09:00am – 04:00pm	Class	5.5 hrs.
18	Pathways: Simulation Day	Apr. 29, 09:00am – 04:00pm	Simulation	5.5 hrs.

Additional Information

ADA

The Academy for Professional Excellence is committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment that appreciates and builds on diversity. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and California Administrative Code Title 24, The Academy for Professional Excellence prohibits discrimination on the basis of a disability in employment, public services, transportation, public accommodations, and telecommunication services. For questions regarding accommodations, or to request accommodations for upcoming classes, please contact Academy-CRS@sdsu.edu. Please note that all accommodation and interpreter requests must be submitted at least one month before the scheduled delivery date.

Continuing Education

This course meets the qualifications for 5.5 hours of continuing education credit for LMFTs, LCSWs, LPPCs and/or LEPs as required by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences. The Academy for Professional Excellence is approved by the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists to sponsor continuing education for LMFTs, LCSWs, LPCCs and LEPs, Provider #91928. The Academy for Professional Excellence is approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider # CEP15014; CCAPP Provider # 1S-98-398-1026, and CAADE Provider # CP40 906 CH0326 for 5.5 contact hours/CEHs. [How to Obtain CE Certificates & CE Grievance Procedures](#).



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Visit us at [**theacademy.sdsu.edu**](http://theacademy.sdsu.edu).