

Caring Across Communities Collaborative

Portland, Maine

Our Definition of Care

Care is an expansive and ever changing point of view regarding needs for a human response to the personal desires regarding human pain and suffering. It is imperative that practitioners are able to see their service user and to understand and empathize with both the service user's cultural identity and healing traditions and ultimately apply in their practice appropriate prevention and intervention models.

Within a multicultural context of delivery such care requires new conceptual frameworks that restructure the provider's understanding and delivery practices based on a more comprehensive insight into the competency of U.S. mental health practices and the integration of multicultural viewpoints regarding health and healing.

Such integration of care requires a level of cultural competency that shifts the focus from preconceived notions of health context and delivery into highly complex collaborative models that both empower the service user and open the context of delivery both in prevention and intervention into a more communicative and insightful formulation.

Developing such levels of care requires not only the aforementioned shifts in context but also changes in policy, procedures and service delivery.