

People of Color Network (PCN) is a network of impressive, quality focused, community- based organizations with a very successful history of serving diverse communities throughout Arizona. Originally formed to help close the gap in service disparity to better meet the needs of multi-cultural populations eligible to receive behavioral health services, PCN serves nearly 6,000 adults, youth, children and their families seeking to achieve its mission of “Creating and Maintaining Healthy People of Color Communities” by **Turning Recovery & Resiliency Into Living WellSM**.



During the past few years, the Arizona behavioral health system has undergone unprecedented funding cuts and reduction of services. Despite these challenges, the PCN staff and our provider partners have remained focused on evolving the system and improving health outcomes for diverse children, adults and families. In the midst of all this change, people in Arizona experiencing mental illness are dying 32 years earlier than the general public often due to chronic health diseases.

As a result, PCN launched a multi-phase, culturally informed **My Healthy Living Initiative** focusing on whole health (mind, body + spirit) to 1) increase access to healthcare, 2) reduce health disparities among people of color, 3) reduce the impact of chronic health issues, and 4) promote health awareness and prevention. The overall goal is to improve quality of life and increase life expectancy for individuals experiencing mental illness and substance use disorders.

An **Integrated Community Healthcare** model has been developed and is continuously evolving as we move into the future. The initial phase of the project was to conduct culturally appropriate community asset/needs mapping and engagement efforts to diverse populations – people of color – Hispanics/ Latinos, African-Americans, Native Americans, and Asians – children, youth, adults, and families living in targeted medically underserved neighborhoods to connect participants to appropriate supports, resources, and education according to their health risks and needs to increase access to healthcare, impact chronic health conditions, and promote health awareness and prevention.

As an Integrated Community Network in Arizona, PCN is seeking partnerships to go beyond the status quo, fragmented, costly and inefficient healthcare delivery, and through a collaborative approach, deliver integrated culturally and linguistically responsive behavioral and physical healthcare for children, youth, adults, and families. PCN convenes a Health Innovation Project (HIP) group on a quarterly basis as to develop the **My Healthy Living Initiative**, reaching out to connect with community leaders, physicians, and stakeholders to work together towards integrating health services for the people we are privileged to serve. Please to join us in our integrated community integrated healthcare journey.