

ABSTRACT

CULTURAL BROKERS' PERCEPTIONS OF THE CULTURAL BROKER PRACTICE UTILIZED IN FRESNO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA'S CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

An existing systemic concern for Child Welfare systems is over-representation and disproportionality of specific demographic groups within the population that they serve. This study examines one of Fresno County Department of Children and Family Services' (DCFS) intervention targeting disproportionality and over-representation of African American children: the utilization of cultural brokers. For the purpose of this study, qualitative analysis was performed on 7 interviews conducted with 7 cultural brokers from the Centro West Metro Collaborative. This study seeks to explore the cultural broker practice in Fresno County DCFS via the personal experiences of cultural brokers in correspondence to the National Center for Cultural Competence of Georgetown University's Center for Child and Human Development, Georgetown University Medical Center's five principles of cultural broker practice. This study presents various ways that cultural broker practice within Fresno County DCFS did and did not ascribe to such principles.

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