



## **INNOVATION PLAN APPROVAL SUMMARY**

### **Ventura County Innovation**

**Total Requested for Innovation: \$6,537,220**

**Staff Recommends: APPROVAL**

#### **Review History**

County Submitted Innovation Plan: Date March 5, 2013

MHSOAC Vote regarding Plan Approval: March 28, 2013

#### **Innovation Plan Summary**

Ventura County is seeking the Commission's approval for their Innovative Program, Health Care Access and Outcomes. The aim of the Program is to increase the quality and outcomes of services for older adults with serious and persistent mental illness and chronic medical issues who have difficulty accessing health care or who do not have access to regular primary health care.

This Innovative program is an adaptation of a full service partnership (FSP) model. Although FSPs utilize a "whatever it takes" approach, are based on recovery principles, and include peer staff as part of treatment teams, Ventura County mental health consumers and their families have found this approach insufficient to address the full spectrum of needs of individuals served by their the Empowering Partners through Interactive Community Services Intensive Program (EPICS) and Older Adults FSP programs. As currently structured, the FSP models, in their experience, do not go far enough in supporting an integrated health care approach or in addressing the complex health needs that are common among older adults with serious and persistent mental health issues. As a result, Ventura County's planning workgroup felt that a fundamentally new approach was needed. This Innovation will test a holistic approach to treatment, with physical health at the forefront. This is in recognition that, for mental health recovery to be promoted, supported, and experienced, attention to the physical wellness must be fully integrated into treatment.

This Innovation, an adaptation of existing Ventura FSP models, will guide Ventura and hopefully other counties in determining how the FSP model can best function in and contribute to a health care reform environment.

This Innovative Program will serve older adults with serious and persistent mental illness and chronic physical illnesses, many of whom have a high risk of or history of homelessness, who have difficulty accessing traditional services. Of older adults currently served in Ventura's EPICS Program, 93% are diagnosed with psychosis, 51% are also dually diagnosed with a substance use disorder, and at least 15% have endocrinology related conditions. More than half of the consumers in the EPICS program live in board and care facilities, 14% in room and boards and 9% are either homeless or live in a motel. A recent analysis found that all consumers served in Ventura's Older Adult program had at least one serious medical condition and 44% had a dual diagnosis.

This Innovative Program adapts existing models for health navigation and coordinated care that designate a case manager or peer staff to serve as a health navigator, and instead includes the entire multidisciplinary treatment team in the health navigation role. The goal of health navigation is to help individuals gain the confidence, skills, tools, knowledge and self-empowerment to access and make use of the healthcare system in order to maintain their health and meet their wellness goals. Peer staff will take lead roles in supporting health navigation.

## **Evaluation**

This project will include both process and outcome evaluation components intended to assess overall success of the activities being proposed, and to determine the elements associated with successful outcomes that the county wants to adopt and recommend. The following are examples of the kinds of outcomes the county intends to assess.

- Improved Mental Health/Recovery
  - Recovery and wellness goals
  - Behavior And Symptom Identification Scale (BASIS) 24, including changes in clinical symptoms
  - Global Assessment Functioning Scores
  
- Access to and Use of Health Care
  - Use of primary health care provider for general medical issues and for management of chronic medical conditions
  - Effective consumer collaboration with medical treatment
  - Level of emergency room use
  - Medical hospitalization
  - Preventative health care utilization
  - Level of independence of consumers in seeking medical treatment
  - Change in type or frequency of utilization of mental health services
  - Use of crisis services
  - Inpatient psychiatric hospitalization
  
- Physical well-being, physical health

- Measures of physical health, for example weight/height/body mass index, blood pressure, glucose, hemoglobin, and lipids.
  - Health-related behaviors such as tobacco or drug use, exercise and nutrition.
- Other measures including consumer satisfaction, homelessness or incarceration

Since baseline data exists for most of these indicators in the current FSP's, this project will be able to determine if the new program elements lead to significant changes in outcomes.

Duration of project: Four Years