



## **INNOVATION PLAN APPROVAL SUMMARY**

### **Santa Barbara County Innovation**

**Name of Innovative Program: Girls Resiliency Restoration and Reintegration Alliance (GRRRL)**

**Total Requested for Innovation: \$2,507,749**

**Duration of Innovative Program: Three Years**

**Staff Recommends: APPROVAL**

#### **Review History**

County Submitted Innovation (INN) plan: April 24, 2015

Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC or Commission) vote on INN plan: May 28, 2015

#### **Innovation Plan Summary**

Santa Barbara County is seeking the Commission's approval for their INN program, Girls Resiliency Restoration and Reintegration Alliance (GRRRL). The primary purpose is to increase the quality of services, including better outcomes, for girls who are victims of, or at risk for, sexual exploitation through sexual trafficking. GRRRL will implement and evaluate a new approach to identifying and responding to the serious mental health issues experienced by this population, especially post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and major depression, often with co-occurring substance issues.

A major focus of the program is inter-agency and community collaboration with law enforcement, courts, social services, alcohol and drug services, mental health providers, schools, pediatricians, public health, first responders, community-based organizations, parents, foster parents, peers, etc.

The INN program will include:

1. Initial screening and assessment using a shared (across systems) universal screening tool;
2. Comprehensive treatment planning and development involving team members, clients, and family;
3. Trauma-sensitive crisis interventions available 24/7; and,
4. Treatment with a focus on wellness, resilience, and recovery.

The County plans to adapt the “Seeking Safety” model, an evidence-based counseling model that helps people attain safety from trauma and/or substance abuse, in order to address mental health risk factors and linguistic and cultural dynamics of girls involved in the sex trafficking and sex worker sub-culture. The County’s proposed holistic treatment approach includes individual and group trauma-informed therapy, support from peer mentors, mindfulness, positive psychology, pro-social opportunities and activities, and writing. Services will also be offered to siblings and family members to decrease the chance of sibling involvement and increase the positive involvement of family members in promoting the recovery of victims. Training and education for friends, families, service providers across various sectors, and community members is a key feature of the program in order to promote recognition of and response to the mental health impact of sex trafficking.

The Program expects to serve an estimated 160 young women in the first year. In addition, it is estimated that the INN project will educate 2,660 individuals regarding the signs and risks of mental illness related to sex trafficking.

According to the 2010 Census, the Hispanic and Latino populations in Santa Barbara County make up 42% of the total population, and 19.5% of Hispanic and Latino residents are between the ages of 10-19. The INN program will deliver culturally competent services and will feature bicultural and bilingual staff and bilingual/bicultural support groups will be available with interpretation as needed.

#### **Evaluation:**

The county intends to conduct quarterly reviews and assessments in four key project areas:

1. The effectiveness and impact of using a shared screening tool;
2. The impact of the adapted treatment approach for young women who are vulnerable to or involved in sex trafficking, including mental health and substance-use outcomes, as well as related behavioral and social outcomes such as reduction in further sexual exploitation;
3. Whether and how the Program enhances inter-agency collaboration and the resulting effects in improved recognition and response to victims’ mental health issues; and,
4. Whether the program contributes to increases in funding and other public support for improving mental health outcomes for girls who are victims of sexual exploitation.

A project evaluation team composed of diverse stakeholders, including consumers, family members, and representatives of ethnic communities will contribute to the evaluation of whether and how the project succeeds in meeting its learning objectives, and will assist in the dissemination of the evaluation to stakeholders. The County will publish quarterly and annual evaluation and outcomes reports.