



## **INNOVATION PLANS APPROVAL SUMMARY**

### **Santa Cruz County Innovations**

**Name of Innovative Program: ¡Juntos Podemos! Together We Can!**

**Total Requested for Innovation: \$ 2,992,961**

**Duration of Innovative Programs: Five Years**

**Staff Recommends: APPROVAL**

#### **Review History**

Discussed Innovation (INN) Plan with the County: May 4, 2015.

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

#### **Innovation Plan Summary**

Santa Cruz County is seeking MHSOAC approval for the following INN Program:

##### **¡Juntos Podemos! (Together We Can!)**

Santa Cruz County Mental Health is developing a team model where peer and family partners, along with clinical staff, work as collaborative team members and partners to more effectively support the needs of the individual and their family.

The primary purpose of this INN program is to increase quality of services and outcomes. Existing research demonstrates the effectiveness of peer support for individuals in need of mental health services and the importance of engaging individuals' family members while providing clinical services. This INN program makes two significant changes to existing models: the first involves hiring peer and family partners to be trained and work as members on the same treatment team; the second is to examine how to develop an infrastructure to support the work of peer and family partners in a way that each of the diverse approaches offered is valued and supported to benefit the individual and the family. The peer and family partners will initially work with the Transition Age Youth Treatment Team. This team also is being trained to work with older adolescents and young adults experiencing a first episode psychosis using the Prevention and Recovery in Early Psychosis Program (PREP) model. The PREP model utilizes peers and engages the individual's family. Santa Cruz County is adapting the PREP practice by including peer and family partners that are not part of the individuals'

family themselves. This will provide an opportunity to utilize peers and family partners in a new way - working with an age group that they do not ordinarily work with.

This five-year INN project is the result of Santa Cruz County Mental Health Services Act stakeholders identifying a need to expand and leverage the availability of peer partner and family partner staff within the County mental health services teams to support individuals in achieving more positive outcomes.

**Evaluation:**

The INN Program will measure effectiveness by utilizing a participatory approach where representatives of key program stakeholder groups will be asked to provide input on fundamental aspects of the evaluation such as stating primary and secondary evaluation questions, selection of new measures, creation of data collection/management procedures, problem-solving emerging challenges, interpretation of findings, reporting, and making data-based recommendations. Through the evaluation they hope to discover what the key strategies are for creating and maintaining effective treatment teams that include peer partners, family partners, and clinicians. How the treatment teams impact consumer treatment retention, satisfaction with services, and perceived support for recovery treatment goals also will be measured. Descriptive frequencies will be used to answer the primary evaluation questions, and comparative methods (baseline cohort with enrolled cohort, controlling for differences at treatment intake) will be used to answer the secondary questions. Santa Cruz County will work with Applied Survey Research, an independent evaluator, on the evaluation.