



## **INNOVATION PLAN APPROVAL SUMMARY**

### **Stanislaus County Innovation**

**Total Requested for Innovation: \$2,494,898**

**Staff Recommends: APPROVAL**

#### **Review History**

County Submitted Innovation Plan: June 14, 2013

MHSOAC Vote regarding Plan Approval: June 25, 2013

#### **Innovation Plan Summary**

Stanislaus County is seeking the Commission's approval for two Innovative Programs.

#### **Wisdom Transformation Initiative**

**Total Requested for Innovative Program: \$844,445**

The aim of the Innovative Program is to promote interagency and community collaboration by supporting transformation and learning among the six largest non-profit and community-based organizations in Stanislaus County that contract with Behavioral Health Recovery Services to provide behavioral health services and supports to some of the county's most vulnerable individuals and families at risk of and affected by serious mental illness. The Innovative Program's ultimate goal is to improve outcomes for people receiving services and supports through the behavioral health system. The Innovation will support the programs to improve their services for people suffering from or at risk of mental illness. The Wisdom Transformation approach has four areas of focus: a commitment to results, community capacity-building, fiscal sustainability, and leadership development.

#### **Evaluation**

The Innovative Program will measure outcomes in all four areas. The following are examples of the kinds of outcomes the county intends to assess.

- Improved recovery outcomes for people suffering from or at risk of mental illness
- Stronger and more positive internal environment for staff, board members, and others connected to the organizations so they can better support the people they serve and promote positive outcomes

- Positive organizational adaptations to policy and fiscal changes buffeting the behavioral system;
- More effective collaboration among participating organizations and with Stanislaus Behavioral Health Recovery Services

In addition, the county intends to learn about:

- How to help community-based organizations—each with different missions, cultures, and histories—successfully adapt the Wisdom Transformation framework within their particular programs and services
- How to build effective learning communities among staff members, community leaders, family members, and people who receive services; and
- Whether and how cross-organizational learning communities are promising strategies for sustaining long-term transformation efforts.

### **Duration of Innovative Program: Three Years**

## **Garden Gate Innovative Respite Project**

### **Total Requested for Innovative Program: \$1,650,452**

The aim of the Innovative Program is to increase the quality of services, including better outcomes, by developing and testing a consumer- and family-centered approach to short-term crisis respite housing and peer support for individuals and their families who are at risk for psychiatric hospitalization. The Innovative Program will support and accelerate local county-wide transformation by expanding options for people struggling with co-occurring issues of substance abuse and mental illness and connecting people to community-based supports.

Currently in Stanislaus County a number of individuals are not connecting with outpatient services or community peer support and are being psychiatrically hospitalized, sometimes repeatedly, for a variety of reasons. Successful efforts to infuse recovery and resiliency into the system have not turned the corner on reliably linking individuals to community-based support. The Innovative Program asks: “Can we move outside the paradigm of only two choices for people in a mental health crisis – ‘treatment vs. no treatment’ – to include community-based peer support as a real and viable alternative?”

The target population is adults, older adults, and transition-age young adults who experience a mental health crisis and do not receive timely outpatient services and may frequently and repeatedly be admitted to a psychiatric hospital. The program will be housed in a community Respite Center known as a safe, comfortable environment for individuals who are homeless and mentally ill. This alternative to psychiatric hospitalization will include a focus on peer support, defined as “individuals who share their gifts with one another in ways that give hope, direction and social connection.” The approach also includes offering and encouraging family-to-family member support.

### **Evaluation**

Examples of overarching questions that the county will explore through this project include:

1. *Culture shift*: Can a “culture” shift occur in the community, creating better alignment between need and available supports and creating more effective ways of supporting
2. *Recovery*: Can this Innovative Program increase self-esteem, promote recovery, reduce stigma, and contribute to healthier, happier and more productive members of the community who are less dependent on the behavioral health service system in a crisis?
3. *Reduced psychiatric hospitalization*: Can the program assist people to avoid the trauma of psychiatric hospitalization by offering community-based peer support paired with short term respite care?
4. *Cost reductions*: Can the program promote a new cost-effective approach to significantly reduce psychiatric hospital admits and associated costs to the behavioral health and related systems such as emergency rooms and jails?

**Duration of Innovative Program: Three Years**