



INNOVATION PLAN APPROVAL SUMMARY

Tuolumne County Innovation

Total Requested for Innovation: \$435,100

Staff Recommends: APPROVAL

Review History

County Submitted Innovation Plan: May 20, 2010

MHSOAC Vote regarding Plan Approval: June 24, 2010

Innovation Plan Summary

Tuolumne County Behavioral Health Department developed a community planning process consisting of a range of focus groups, which included consumers, and key informant interviews that generated valuable input specific to the County's INN Plan. Key stakeholders interviewed included representatives from the Tuolumne County Adult Protective Services, Public Guardian, Probation, Children's Welfare Services, Ombudsman, County Council, and Sheriff Department. The Sonora Police Chief provided input for this plan, as well as representatives that provide advocacy and outreach services to the Spanish-speaking and Native American residents in the community.

Building a Life at Home

This three-year project proposes an innovative collaboration between Tuolumne County's Behavioral Health Department, consumers and families, representatives of Spanish-speaking and Native American residents, and diverse stakeholders representing organizations and systems (Public Guardian, Adult Protective Services, Law Enforcement, Probation and Ombudsman programs) who all play a part in the decision to conserve severely mentally ill residents in long term residential in and out-of-county facilities or who would refer community members for more restrictive services. The County will form a Task Force that meets regularly to address community-issues related to the mentally ill and alternatives to restrictive higher level placements. The "*Building a Life at Home*" Task Force will oversee the development, implementation, and assessment of best practice case management which emphasizes peer recovery and resiliency strategies that target: 1) mentally ill consumers currently living at home

but requiring a higher level of care; and 2) mentally ill peers residing in residential facilities in and out of county that need to return home to live safe and independent lives.

The project seeks to learn whether the Task Force will result in a change/shift in the community culture, attitudes and beliefs over time in Tuolumne County from the current view where the institutionalization of the severely mentally ill is best for the consumer and safest for community to a new view which values that consumers can live at home independently and safely, with recovery, wellness and resilience services available as needed, and that the consumers can become contributing members of the community. The project seeks to learn: 1) the best way to organize and structure the Task Force to produce this kind of significant change in community attitude, engagement, and ultimately service delivery; 2) whether this will reduce the high number of permanent conservatorships by marshalling the cooperation, resources and expertise of consumers, families of consumers, and all county and community agencies that respond to or are involved with the determination to place their severely mentally ill residents in long-term out-of-county residential facilities; and 3) whether stigma related attitudes about severely mentally ill clients can be addressed through an ongoing Task Force.