



INNOVATION PLAN APPROVAL SUMMARY

County: Santa Cruz

Innovation Plan Summary

This Santa Cruz Innovation Plan, Work First for Individuals with Co-Occurring Disorders, pilots "Work First" as a core treatment modality for transition age youth and adults with co-occurring disorders. Individuals will be given an opportunity to engage in work and employment activities as a first step toward their recovery. Other innovative dimensions to the model include holistic health support and 50% peer staffing.

Approximately 75% of Santa Cruz County's "Full Service Partnership for Transition-Age Youth" participants have a co-occurring disorder. It is estimated that 90% of these youth are not receiving targeted substance abuse services both because of a lack of available co-occurring diagnosis services and many participants' unwillingness to participate in "traditional" substance-use or mental health treatment. Additionally, individuals with co-occurring disorders identified in jail and inpatient psychiatric hospitals are often released without appropriate follow-up care because they are not known to the mental health system or because their co-occurring disorder is not identified. The project design responds to input from consumers that one cannot be mentally healthy without meaningful daily activity and that work can be foundational to recovery. Santa Cruz County's Innovation project provides the opportunity to test a new model to bridge the gap between mental health and substance abuse services with the goal of improving outcomes, including reduced recidivism, increased employment, and increased community integration.

BUDGET: \$ 776,710

Staff Recommends: APPROVAL