

PROPOSAL "B" FOR FY 2012/13 MHSOAC EVALUATION

Name of Proposed Evaluation: Feasibility Study: Full Service Partnership (FSP) Client and Program Characteristics Impact on Individual Outcomes

Brief Description:

To date, there is limited knowledge regarding the makeup of FSP clients across programs in all counties and how differences in client makeup may impact FSP programs. Variations in FSP programming may also contribute to differences in program impact. This evaluation will identify characteristics of FSP programs and the clients that those programs serve and how those program and client characteristics impact the efficacy of services. Knowledge regarding how program and client characteristics impact service efficacy would allow for continued service improvement via tailoring of services to meet client needs.

The evaluator will work with a subset of diverse counties to determine the feasibility of developing a meaningful classification of FSP programs based on program and client characteristics using pre-existing data (e.g., Client and Services Information, Data Collections and Reporting). Based on this effort, the evaluator will make recommendations regarding the feasibility of using existing data for this purpose versus identification (and description) of a new approach for gathering accurate and needed client and program data. This recommendation will be partially based on the evaluator's experience with using existing data to draw preliminary conclusions regarding the impact of client and program characteristics on program efficacy. Program efficacy will be determined based on individual/family outcomes that can be determined based on existing data.

An end goal of this project would be an FSP program classification system based on client and program level data. Next steps outside of the scope of this initial project would be to use the recommended client and program level data (either existing or newly collected) to classify all FSP programs so that this classification could be factored in when drawing conclusions regarding individual program outcomes. In addition, the current project will provide initial ideas regarding what client and program characteristics may impact program efficacy. Those characteristics can be focused on in future evaluation efforts that include assessment of all FSP programs; the ultimate goal being inclusion of those characteristics and/or the FSP classification to facilitate drawing more accurate conclusions about the ability of various programs to promote improved outcomes, and how services can be better tailored to meet client needs.

Purpose (check all that apply)

- Inform and Improve Services Assess and Communicate Impact
- Inform and Improve Policy Gain Insight
- Affect Those Who Participate in the Inquiry
- Other, specify _____

Audience and Uses

The initial classification system that is developed would be applicable to and used by the MHSOAC, other state entities and counties. Policy makers, counties, providers, clients and family members, and other stakeholders would be interested in this information, as well as the results of the outcome impact analyses, for quality improvement opportunities.

Questions

- Can a meaningful and accurate FSP classification system based on program and client level data be developed using existing data?
- If not, what additional information is needed to develop such a system and how can this information be captured?
- What preliminary program and client characteristics appear to impact the efficacy of FSP program individual/family outcomes?

Priority Goals/Outcomes/Indicators from MHSA/SOC Statute

Evaluation design to include individual/family outcomes.

Outcome Consistent with MHSOAC Logic Model

Strategies 5, 6 and 7.

MHSOAC Estimated Funding Need \$250-300,000 per year

[X] One-year only [] Multi-year