

PROPOSAL “D” FOR FY 2012/13 MHSOAC EVALUATION

Name of Proposed Evaluation: Support Local Oversight Efforts

Brief Description:

Due to the recent realignment, responsibility for approval of most MHSA local resources has shifted from the state to counties. The role of local mental health boards and commissions, therefore, has increased importance in this realigned system. The focus of this work is to create options for enhancing the ability of local boards to obtain, understand, and make use of all information that is necessary for them to make appropriate decisions surrounding approval of resources that are in line with MHSA values. The focus of this project will be on identifying actionable steps for building effective boards (i.e., those that promote MHSA values and use those values to guide their recommendations and decisions regarding approval of resources).

The evaluator will carry out actions that enable understanding of what steps can and should be taken to promote effective local boards and commissions (e.g., identifying examples of boards that are deemed to be successful based on objective criteria developed by the evaluators and MHSA stakeholders; carrying out a needs assessment; identifying barriers to success that other less successful boards may be facing and how such barriers can be overcome, etc.). Promising practices and barriers to success will be identified and incorporated into a draft action plan that includes recommendations for the infrastructure and other systems that are needed to achieve success; these practices may include a description of how the state can provide support to local boards and commissions. The draft plan will then be pilot tested within a diverse subset of counties (including those with effective and less successful boards). This piloting process will be used to further inform the creation of a final proposed action plan.

The action plan should include tangible steps that a variety of boards and commissions should be able to easily act upon that result in increased efficacy in their MHSA roles (due to board/county diversity, there may not be a one-size-fits-all approach to recommended steps). Thus, the evaluator should assess the ability of a variety of boards to feasibly carry out proposed steps, and consider how success will be measured. Evaluation of success by local boards should be a process included within the action plan that would enable boards to assess improvements on their own and use this information to strengthen and maintain board functioning.

The end goal of this effort will be creation of a tested process (i.e., action plan) for building and maintaining an effective board that adequately and accurately serves the MHSA and its stakeholders. The evaluator may consider partnering with the Planning Council and CiMH in this effort, as the Planning Council has a statutory role in working with boards and commissions and CiMH has a long-term role in providing training to these entities.

Note: This proposal supports capacity/infrastructure building rather than evaluation directly.

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 end users of the action plan developed as part of this project include local boards and commissions and the state MHSOAC. The action plan will be used to improve upon existing local board functioning.

Questions

- What can be done to improve the ability of local boards and commissions to obtain, understand, and make use of all information that is necessary for them to make appropriate decisions surrounding approval of resources that are in line with MHSA values?

Priority Goals/Outcomes/Indicators from MHSA/SOC Statute

Ensuring community participation in the local MHSA process. Indirectly, community/statewide, program/system, and individual/family outcomes would be influenced.

Outcome Consistent with MHSOAC Logic Model

Strategies 1, 3, and 4

MHSOAC Estimated Funding Need \$75,000-100,000

- One-year only Multi-year (specify number of years)