

PROPOSAL "G" FOR FY 2012/13 MHSOAC EVALUATION

Name of Proposed Evaluation: Strengthen State Data Systems

Brief Description:

The ability for both the state and counties to have access to quality, timely data is essential for MHSA evaluations. Without accurate data, we have no way to truly know the impact of the MHSA and consider how to improve services based on research-based knowledge of the MHSA's current level of influence.

Previous work done by the MHSOAC has shown that there are many challenges to working with data that is currently made available by the counties (e.g., Client Services and Information, Data Collections and Reporting); a significant portion of data in existing systems is missing/unknown or inaccurate. These issues limit the impact of evaluations that stem from these databases (e.g., evaluations are forced to draw upon very small samples of the little valid data that is available, which limits our ability to draw conclusions surrounding the full population of individuals who receive services under the MHSA). Other data system issues that need to be addressed are establishment of protocols and resolution of the issues regarding matching of DCR and CSI databases, which are essential for further Full Service Partnership (FSP) evaluations. In addition, there have been ongoing discussions about designing strategies to modify the DCR for FSP clients who have less intensive service needs.

This project aims to address some of these issues by taking steps to improve upon existing data systems and identify other potential data sources that could be used and making recommendations about their use. The overall scope of this effort could include the following: 1) establish and implement ways to build upon current data systems in order to improve the data that they provide; 2) provide additional user supports to counties so that they can improve their data collection and reporting protocols; 3) design strategies to modify DCR to expand its use; and 4) identify and assess other data sources that may provide relevant data and make recommendations regarding their incorporation into evaluation efforts.

Note: This proposal is classified as infrastructure/capacity building that would support evaluation efforts.

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 data systems that are improved/developed would be applicable to and used by the state and counties. Data collected as part of this effort would be useful for

policy makers, providers, clients and family members, and other stakeholders interested in opportunities for quality improvement.

Questions

- What needs to be done to improve the quality and timeliness of data that is made available by the counties for MHSA evaluation purposes?

Priority Goals/Outcomes/Indicators from MHSA/SOC Statute

Community/statewide, program/system, and individual/family outcomes would be included.

Outcome Consistent with MHSOAC Logic Model

Strategies 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 (i.e., all goals from the statute).

MHSOAC Estimated Funding Need \$150,000-500,000

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