

PROPOSAL "J" FOR FY 2012/13 MHSOAC EVALUATION

Name of Proposed Evaluation: Evaluation of the Impact of the Community Planning Process through Participatory Action Research (PAR)

Brief Description:

The goals of the MHSA rely upon high levels of community involvement and planning. The statute and regulations require ongoing community participation. A community planning process must be in place in each county that aims to continuously engage the community and ensure that all community members and various groups within communities have an opportunity to participate in MHSA efforts and provide feedback regarding MHSA decisions on an ongoing basis. This project aims to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of the community planning process using Participatory Action Research methods.

The research will evaluate level of community involvement in planning, implementation, and evaluation of MHSA funded efforts. This process may involve determining the number of groups held, what factors contribute to maximum participation by target members, and what factors contribute to representation of un/underserved groups and communities. In addition, work would be done to identify how to determine whether or not a community planning process is effective. Finally, the impact of the planning process on outcomes would be assessed.

The end goal will be to highlight factors that lead to desired results (e.g., policy development, quality improvement efforts, accountability). Results of this research could be used to develop criteria for effective community planning. Counties and communities could use this information to improve their ongoing community planning processes.

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

Stakeholders and counties could use this information when planning and implementing their community planning processes. Policymakers could also use it toward quality improvement efforts.

Questions

- How can efficacy of the community planning process be measured?
- How effective has the MHSA community planning process been?
- What factors contribute to a successful, effective community planning process?

- Do facets of the community planning process impact MHSA values/outcomes?

Priority Goals/Outcomes/Indicators from MHSA/SOC Statute

All MHSA outcomes (i.e., community/statewide, program/system, and individual/family level outcomes).

Outcome Consistent with MHSOAC Logic Model

Strategies 1, 3, 5, 6, and 7.

MHSOAC Estimated Funding Need \$200,000-300,000

One-year only Multi-year. Note: This evaluation activity should be a precursor to the development of the Three Year Program and Expenditure Plan and should be conducted every year.