

First Revision
Discussion Document

Summary of UCLA Recommendations From The
Summary and Synthesis of Existing Evaluations Regarding MHSA Values and PEI
with MHSOAC Staff Recommendations for Next Steps

June 4, 2012

UCLA's recommendations from these two reports have been grouped together below for discussion by the Evaluation Committee. Next steps have been proposed by the Evaluation Committee or MHSOAC staff for consideration by the Evaluation Committee and are included below in italics.

1. FUTURE EVALUATION CONTRACTS

- a. Focus future evaluations on program, system and community level outcomes to understand the impact of MHSA on MHSA values since MHSA values are represented in outcomes at these levels.

Evaluation Committee Recommendations 5/23/12

- i. *MHSOAC approved principles for evaluations include being "consistent with MHSA objectives and meaningful to consumers and families." Should be reviewed periodically.*
- ii. *Add further evaluation of impact of MHSA on MHSA values to the list of potential uses for MHSOAC evaluation funding. Some examples are community collaboration, and consumer and family involvement on system transformation.*
- iii. *Consider inclusion of this principle in the master plan.*

2. STATEWIDE FRAMEWORK/MASTER PLAN

- a. Establish overall evaluation goals for PEI.

Evaluation Committee Recommendations 5/23/12

- i. *Provide this recommendation for consideration in the MHSOAC's evaluation master plan and to Rand who is working on statewide PEI evaluation system framework.*
- ii. *Revisit the above recommendation upon completion and approval of an evaluation master plan which will help guide overall MHSOAC evaluations.*

3. EVALUATION FUNDING PRIORITIES

- a. Focus resources on future evaluations of MHSA values in the areas that currently have greatest potential for meaningful cross-county analysis. Based on findings, MHSA value with greatest potential is reduction of disparities in access.

Evaluation Committee Recommendation 5/23/12

- i. *Some of the FY 11/12 MHSOAC evaluation resources are being dedicated to an evaluation of reduction in disparities which begins to address the UCLA recommendation.*
 - ii. *Ensure that there is an ongoing commitment to this critical area in the evaluation master plan.*
- b. Consider a future summary and synthesis of PEI evaluations that simultaneously reviews the individual level outcomes alongside program, system and community level outcomes which are most relevant to MHSA values.

Evaluation Committee Recommendation 5/23/12

- i. *See recommendation 2a.*
- ii. *Consider additional strategies when developing priorities for annual MHSOAC evaluation resources.*

4. STANDARDS FOR COUNTY DATA COLLECTION/REPORTING

- a. Develop small set of priority indicators and/or measure within each Key Community Mental Health Need and across target populations that counties should collect and report as part of an ongoing effort to evaluate PEI. Need long-term evaluation to capture change at these levels.

MHSOAC Staff Recommendation 5/23/12

- i. *See recommendation 2a.*

- b. Provide clear guidance to counties to meet any new PEI evaluation/reporting requirements.

MHSOAC Staff Recommendation 5/23/12

- i. *See recommendation 2a.*

- c. Provide guidance to counties to identify and collect outcome data on the individual/family, program, and system level to ensure that all levels are adequately included in their PEI evaluations.

MHSOAC Staff Recommendation 5/23/12

- i. *See recommendation 2a.*

- d. Have counties report separately: 1) actual number of individuals served across prevention programs, 2) actual number of individuals served for early intervention programs and 3) estimated number of individuals served in prevention programs. Include number and characteristics of individuals served across PEI programs.

MHSOAC Staff Recommendation 5/23/12

- i. *See recommendation 2a.*

- e. Provide counties with resources, guidance and technical assistance to report specific contextual information required for interpreting the validity and strength of local findings on PEI evaluations.

MHSOAC Staff Recommendation 5/23/12

- i. *See recommendation 2a.*

- f. Develop a reporting format for local PEI evaluation findings such that outcome data are submitted to the State in a manner that facilitates an effective process of summarizing

and synthesizing outcomes across counties. Include in the reporting format required content such as evaluation questions, study design, samples, measurement instruments and timeframes for data collection, data analysis, and interpretation of findings.

MHSOAC Staff Recommendation 5/23/12

- i. See recommendation 2a.*

5. STATE LEVEL ANALYSES/REPORTS

- a. Ensure that counties understand how to use process-oriented data to help interpret program outcomes through reporting structure that 1) delineate between outcome and process-oriented data and 2) require an analysis of how process-oriented data help to explain outcome findings.

MHSOAC Staff Recommendation 5/23/12

- i. Provide this recommendation for consideration in the MHSOAC's evaluation master plan and to Rand who is working on statewide PEI evaluation system framework.*
- ii. Refer the evaluation technical assistance recommendations to those recommending priorities for use of state technical assistance resources.*
- b. Statewide analyses on PEI should group counties based on the type of projects they have chosen for their local evaluation.

MHSOAC Staff Recommendation 5/23/12

- i. Some of the FY 11/12 MHSOAC evaluation resources are being dedicated to an evaluation of early intervention programs which begins to address the UCLA recommendation.*
- ii. Ensure that there is an ongoing commitment to this critical area in the evaluation master plan.*
- iii. Consider additional strategies when developing priorities for annual MHSOAC evaluation resources.*

6. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA)

- a. Dedicate resources to providing counties with TA on how best to design evaluation studies; collect and analyze data; fidelity monitoring; and report, disseminate and utilize findings.

MHSOAC Staff Recommendation

- i. Refer the evaluation technical assistance recommendations to those recommending priorities for use of state technical assistance resources.*
- b. TA should be tailored to the existing capacity of counties.

MHSOAC Staff Recommendation

- i. See Recommendation 6a.*
- c. Ensure that counties understand how to use process-oriented data to help interpret program outcomes.

MHSOAC Staff Recommendation

- i. See Recommendation 6a.*

- d. Help counties identify appropriate program/system level indicators so that they capture the full spectrum of potential effects of PEI.

MHSOAC Staff Recommendation

- i. See Recommendation 6a.*

- e. Provide counties with resources, guidance and technical assistance to report specific contextual information required for interpreting the validity and strength of local findings on PEI evaluations.

MHSOAC Staff Recommendation

- i. See Recommendation 6a.*