

EVALUATION MASTER PLAN

MHSOAC EVALUATION COMMITTEE
MAY 23, 2012

1

AGENDA

- Background and purpose/scope
- Process
- Discussion, Questions, Advice

2

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE/SCOPE

- Current situation
 - Significant effort is being devoted to multiple evaluation efforts
 - MHSOAC, CalMHSA, CIMH, EQRO, consumer surveys, URS reporting, 1115 Waiver Needs Assessment
 - Purposes and audiences vary
 - **Mental health environment is unusually uncertain**
 - Demise of DMH
 - Changes in county responsibilities - 1115 expanded eligibility, forensic realignment
 - Health reform
- Purpose and scope of master plan development
 - Assist MHSOAC determine its evaluation work plan over a reasonable planning horizon
 - Place this within a context of other evaluation efforts

3

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE/SCOPE

- Why this is hard
 - Needs for information are different depending on who is using the information and for what purpose
 - Tension between evaluation for purposes of compliance, oversight, reporting to Legislature, public, policy making , and quality improvement
 - Needs are different if viewed from perspective of state or county or provider or consumer/family member
 - Sophistication about evaluation and how to use information is mixed
 - There are questions about usefulness of existing evaluation efforts
 - Information already available is not always used
 - Multiple uncoordinated evaluation efforts underway
 - We don't yet know how useful current evaluation efforts will be
 - Challenges about data systems
 - Are costly to maintain and support
 - Many question the accuracy of some of the data systems
 - We currently have multiple data sources covering different populations

4

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE/SCOPE

- Why it is important to address these issues now
 - With the demise of DMH, essential to ensure the data systems are continued with *adequate support*
 - With fiscal pressures need to coordinate and plan evaluation efforts to ensure efficient use of resources
 - As more data becomes available have to increase our capacity to use the information productively
- Principles for developing the plan
 - Guided by needs of the users
 - Simple and straight forward
 - Address issues of data reliability and quality
 - Be incremental

5

PROCESS

- Information gathering
 - Reports of evaluation activity already undertaken, in process, or planned
 - Interviews with key stakeholders
 - Summary review of data systems – populations included, data elements, estimates of accuracy, level of effort to maintain and support, potential usefulness
 - Evaluation activity in selected other states – how organized, how resourced, what kinds of information collected, how results are used
 - Evaluation activity in selected counties – how organized and resourced, what kinds of evaluation efforts, how data and information are used
 - Review of national evaluation requirements, trends, and opportunities

6

PROCESS

- Consideration of options – not yet clear on how best to frame these
 - Kinds of activities
 - Data system maintenance and support
 - Data analysis capacity
 - Data reporting capacity
 - Program evaluation opportunities: ranging from controlled trials to qualitative exploration
 - Analysis of system transformation and adherence to MHSA values
 - Analysis of information for policy recommendations
 - Required oversight activities – EQRO, URS, consumer satisfaction
 - Performance indicators
 - Training and support for users of information
- Who should be responsible for each
 - State and/or counties
 - If state, what role for MHSOAC and others
 - How much coordination of effort

7

PROCESS

- Plan
 - Draft
 - Review
 - Final
- Timeline – by end of calendar year

8

DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS/ADVICE

- What works, i.e. examples of evaluation information being used productively for either oversight or quality improvement or justifying mental health expenditures?
- How do we justify significant expenditures for evaluation in the face of a shrinking service system?
- Are we using productively information we already have about the mental health system?

9
