

PROPOSAL "E" FOR FY 2012/13 MHSOAC EVALUATION

Name of Proposed Evaluation: Assessment and Improvement of Innovation Program Evaluations

Brief Description:

Counties receive MHSA funds for Innovative Programs for the purpose of designing, piloting, and evaluating the efficacy of new/changed mental health approaches consistent with MHSA values and intended outcomes. The broader goal is for counties to adopt successful approaches developed and demonstrated through MHSA Innovation funds. Innovative Programs must include an evaluation component, which is intended to support counties in making data-driven decisions about incorporating new effective practices into their existing systems and services.

The overarching goals of this proposal are to 1) assess the quality and efficacy of current Innovation Program evaluations that are being carried out by counties, and 2) take steps to ensure that counties are receiving enough support to independently conduct rigorous evaluations. In order to achieve these goals, the evaluator will have to first identify and/or develop a system that allows for evaluation of the Innovation Program evaluations being done by counties. They will then work with the MHSOAC to identify a subset of counties and Innovation Programs within those counties to assess. Based on their review of evaluation strategies being used at the county level, training and technical assistance would be provided to counties as needed aimed at strengthening their ability to pilot, evaluate, and, if indicated, adopt and disseminate the Innovation Programs.

End goals of this project include development of a process for ensuring quality county-level evaluation of Innovation Programs that would facilitate adoption of those Programs that were deemed to be effective in meeting MHSA goals. Long term goals of this project include setting a foundation that would later allow for statewide evaluation of the Innovation component. This later project could enable understanding regarding the ability of the Innovation component to prompt change in mental health services and promote better MHSA outcomes.

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 MHSOAC and counties would make use of this information to 1) understand and communicate the impact of the Innovation component of the MHSA and 2) continuously improve the implementation of the MHSA Innovation component at state and county levels, including strengthening policies, state oversight, support for counties and programs, counties' evaluations, communication and dissemination, and adoption of new/improved effective mental health practices. Policy makers, counties, providers, clients and family members, people currently un/underserved by the mental health system, and other stakeholders are all likely to be interested in the results of this evaluation.

Questions

- Do the Innovation evaluations that are currently being done by counties facilitate the ability to make good decisions about integration of innovations into current systems?

- How can the MHSOAC provide support to counties that will enable Innovation evaluations that are effective/high quality and promote integration of successfully Innovation Programs into practice?

Priority Goals/Outcomes/Indicators from MHSA/SOC Statute

Evaluation design to include all relevant outcomes from the statute (i.e., community/statewide, program/systems, and individual/family outcomes).

Outcome Consistent with MHSOAC Logic Model

All strategies would be included (1-7).

MHSOAC Estimated Funding Need \$150,000-\$200,000

One-year only Multi-year