Recommendations for Evaluation Funding for FY 2012/13

Renay Bradley, Ph.D.
Chief of Research and Evaluation

MHSOAC
Mental Health Services
Oversight and Accountability Commission

Issue

The Commission will consider recommendations provided by the Evaluation Committee and MHSOAC staff regarding priorities for use of $875,000 evaluation funding for FY 2012-13.

The following proposals for Commission consideration reflect concepts recommended by the Evaluation Committee and MHSOAC staff as priorities based on available resources.

Background

- Evaluation Committee discussed 11 proposals on August 22nd
  - Posed by Committee members, MHSOAC staff, and Dr. Joan Meisel

Recommended Proposal - J

- Evaluation of the Impact of the Community Planning Process through Participatory Research.
  - This project aims to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of the community planning process using Participatory Research methods. Results would be used to develop criteria for effective community planning that could be used for continuous quality improvement.
    - *Approximate Cost: $0-$300,000*

Recommended Proposal - M

- Collection of Baseline Priority Indicator Data.
  - This project aims to collect data on system/program- and individual/family-level outcomes (i.e., priority indicators that were previously approved by the MHSOAC) from a time point prior to full implementation of the MHSA (e.g., 2004-8) in order to establish a baseline that may be used for comparison purposes. Comparison of baseline data to data collected after implementation of the MHSA will further our understanding of potential shifts in system- and individual-level outcomes that may be a result of the MHSA.
    - *Approximate Cost: $0-$175,000*

Recommended Proposal - E

- Assessment and Improvement of Innovation Program Evaluations.
  - This project is designed to assess the quality and efficacy of a sample of current Innovation Program evaluations and take steps to ensure that counties are receiving enough support to independently conduct rigorous Innovation Program evaluations. The end goal would be 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.
    - *Approximate Cost: $150,000-$200,000*

Recommended Proposal - Z

- Strengthening of Data Collection Systems and Standardized Reporting within the Community Services and Support (CSS) Component.
  - This project aims to provide resources aimed at improving the accuracy, availability, and use of program/provider, client, and outcome data on services funded under the MHSA within the CSS component. The goal is to identify and take action on the steps that are needed to address problems that exist regarding the availability, quality, and timeliness of CSS data and reporting processes.
  - *Approximate Cost: $350,000-450,000*

Note re: Cost Ranges

- Please note that the approximate cost ranges provided for each proposal reflect a variety of potential strategies for completing them, pending Commission approval. MHSOAC staff understand that the sum of highest approximate costs for all four proposals total more than our currently available funding for FY 2012/13. If all four proposals are approved by the Commission, MHSOAC staff would pursue strategies for completing these proposed projects that allowed for completion within our designated evaluation budget.

Proposed Motion

- *The Commission adopts the Evaluation Committee and OAC Staff recommendations of the priority proposals to expend the $875,000 in FY 2012/13 funds for evaluation as set forth below:*
  - *Proposal J: Evaluation of the Impact of the Community Planning Process Through Participatory Research ($0-$300,000)*
  - *Proposal M: Collection of Baseline Priority Indicator Data ($0-$175,000)*
  - *Proposal E: Assessment and Improvement of Innovation Program Evaluations ($150,000-$200,000)*
  - *Proposal Z: Strengthening of Data Collection Systems and Standardized Reporting within the Community Services and Support (CSS) Component ($350,000-$450,000)*