

**X** INFORMATION

TAB SECTION: 2

\_\_\_ ACTION REQUIRED

DATE OF MEETING: 08/22/13

PREPARED BY: Geary

DATE MATERIAL PREPARED: 08/2/13

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**AGENDA ITEM: Discussion of Fiscal Year 2013/14 Planned Evaluation Activity:  
Determine Effectiveness of Methods for Engaging and Serving  
Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) Clients**

**ENCLOSURES:** None

**OTHER MATERIAL RELATED TO ITEM:** None

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**ISSUE:**

In March 2013, the Commission adopted the *Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) Evaluation Master Plan*, which outlines a series of priority evaluation activities to complete over the next five years, as well as a prioritization process to consider additional evaluation activities to complete. The Commission also approved the *MHSOAC Evaluation Implementation Plan for Fiscal Years 2013/14-2017/18*. This plan maps out which specific evaluation activities that will be performed each year, including this fiscal year 2013/14.

One such activity for this fiscal year is an evaluation effort to determine the effectiveness of methods for engaging and serving Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) clients. We will use this discussion to consider the scope of work and associated deliverables for this project. Below is the initial description of the project that was included in the Evaluation Master Plan.

*Study 3: System Level (Access and Quality): Determine effectiveness of methods for engaging and serving transitional aged youth (TAY) clients*

Evaluation questions

What types of implemented programs or program elements are sufficiently well-defined to be evaluated?

How effective are those well-defined interventions in engaging TAY and producing positive outcomes?

The mental health field has increasingly acknowledged the poor outcomes achieved by youth with a serious mental illness as they transition to adulthood (Clark, Koroloff, Geller & Sondheimer, 2008). Neither the children's nor the adult mental health systems of care have been able to address adequately the unique needs of this population. The mandate in the MHSOAC to develop approaches and programs for this population has fostered substantial progress on how to engage and serve this group. Understanding the TAY culture is critical to establishing the kind of personal and trusting relationships necessary to making progress. The CMHDA subcommittee *Resource Guides on TAY* (2005), the CMHPC *TAY with Emotional and*

*Behavioral Disabilities: Moving Towards Self-sufficiency*, and the CiMH FSP TAY Toolkit (2010) reflect the attention being paid to the population.

First this study must determine what programs to use in a formal evaluation. TAY program experts can assist in identifying criteria for this selection process. The key criterion is having an intervention which is well defined. The task is thus (a) to identify well defined model interventions, e.g. Transitions to Independence Process (TIP), that are being used in various counties; and/or if there are not enough of those, (b) to identify key well-defined elements of interventions that can be used to cluster more generic programs. The next step would be to elicit participation of programs that fit the criteria.

General consensus exists on the kinds of outcomes to use for the evaluation study, i.e. stability in housing, progress in education, employment, staying out of trouble, no substance use risks, adequate health status, self-ratings of well-being (e.g. social connectedness, hopefulness, positive identity), and lack of clinical symptoms. The evaluation should also include measures of program tenure and ratings of satisfaction with services.