

Evaluation of Methods for Engaging and Serving Transition Age Youth

Scope of Work

The purpose of this evaluation is to promote identification and adoption of effective programs and services designed to increase outreach, engagement, recovery, and resilience among transition-age youth (TAY) with mental health needs.

The mental health field has increasingly acknowledged the poor outcomes achieved by youth with a serious mental illness as they transition to adulthood. Both the children's and adult mental health systems of care have struggled to adequately address the unique needs and circumstances of this population. Fortunately, a number of counties throughout California have begun to implement approaches to engaging and serving this population through programs tailored to meet their unique needs.

The overarching goal of this evaluation is to build a foundation upon which evidence-based practices for TAY can eventually be identified. Several strategies will be used to begin this process, including the following:

- Contractor shall summarize and synthesize (i.e., inventory) county-led TAY outreach efforts, programs, evaluations, and quality improvement efforts designed to strengthen TAY programs and outreach efforts. These efforts will provide a thorough understanding of the extent to which counties are reaching out to TAY, offering them services, evaluating those services, and then using those evaluations for quality improvement purposes. Contractor shall use the information obtained via the inventory to assess completed evaluations of TAY engagement strategies and services and draw preliminary conclusions about the effectiveness of those strategies/services.
- Contractor shall work with counties, TAY providers, and other stakeholders to develop a standard and recommended set of TAY indicators that are directly applicable to TAY and the programs that engage/serve TAY, and have the potential to promote improvements in the quality of those engagement strategies/services. Contractor shall also develop recommended methods for using those indicators within evaluation contexts (e.g., specific measures and research methods) and for quality improvement purposes (e.g., development of processes to use evaluation results to highlight program elements that are effective versus those that are not).
- Contractor shall provide technical assistance to counties and providers aimed at supporting their efforts to evaluate TAY outreach efforts/programs and use those evaluations to identify evidence-based practices and for quality improvement purposes. Contractor shall develop and implement technical assistance strategies based on information gathered and lessons learned throughout the scope of this project.

Technical assistance shall include dissemination of materials created within the scope of this project, including the inventory, preliminary conclusions about the efficacy of TAY engagement strategies and services, recommended indicators and evaluation methods, and recommended quality improvement processes.

- Contractor shall identify statewide policy and program implications and make recommendations for how to strengthen TAY outreach, programs, evaluations, and quality improvement processes statewide. Based on lessons learned within the scope of this project, the Contractor will make policy recommendations designed to promote TAY outreach/program success and support change where appropriate.