



Respite Partnership Collaborative

The Respite Partnership Collaborative (RPC) is a public-private partnership of Sacramento County Division of Behavioral Health Services and Sierra Health Foundation: Center for Health Program Management. The goal of the RPC is to increase local respite service options to offer alternatives to hospitalization for community members experiencing mental health crisis in Sacramento County.

The RPC is funded through the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Innovation component. MHSA is a California initiative passed by voters in 2004 to provide funding to help counties transform mental health services across all age groups and addresses a broad continuum of prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery needs. Innovation is one of five components within the MHSA and has the sole purpose of allowing counties the opportunity to try new approaches to learn more about what may work to increase access for underserved groups, increase quality of services, promote interagency collaboration and/or increase access to services.

Background

In November 2010, Sacramento County Division of Behavioral Health Services conducted a comprehensive community planning process to design an Innovation project. An Innovation Workgroup comprised of key stakeholders was formed to review numerous ideas from the community. The focus of the workgroup was on crisis and ways to develop alternatives to hospitalization. The Innovation Workgroup proposed that funding be used to develop respite programs throughout the community that are located in neighborhoods or home-like settings.

The workgroup decided that the ultimate learning opportunity would be to explore having an administrative entity implement the project to determine if a public-private partnership could lead to new partnerships, increased efficiencies and, ultimately, improved services to community members.

Through a competitive selection process, the County of Sacramento awarded Sierra Health Foundation: Center for Health Program Management a contract to administer the RPC. The Center uses MHSA Innovation funding to support a Respite Partnership Collaborative that makes recommendations for respite service awards to community organizations.

RPC Mission

The RPC addresses mental health crisis by funding respite projects to help reduce the need for hospitalizations that could occur as a result of mental health crisis. The RPC funds respite services that meet criteria including: wellness and recovery principles, the inclusion of peer/youth/family/caregiver support services, and locations in neighborhood or home-like settings. These services will serve, at a minimum, the following populations: 1) Children with complex mental health needs in crisis – parents/caregivers who need a break, 2) Specialized or cultural or ethnic populations, 3) Teens/transition age youth (16-24), 4) Adults/older adults in crisis, and 5) Adults in crisis who have dependent children.

The RPC will release a total of three funding rounds by 2015 to support the provision of mental health respite. In November 2012, the RPC released the first round of grant funding to four Sacramento County organizations that met the criteria for mental health respite services. An additional round of funding was announced in spring 2013 to support the continuum of respite options.

RPC Members

With extensive community outreach and a competitive application process, Sierra Health Foundation: Center for Health Program Management and Sacramento County Division of Behavioral Health Services selected 22 diverse community stakeholders to serve as charter members of the RPC. The members are charged to:

- Review and make funding recommendations to the Center for new and existing respite services
- Participate in RPC project evaluation
- Establish partnership and networking opportunities with other community resources and MHSAs programs
- Explore options for leveraging and sustainability of crisis respite
- Develop technology to identify and track respite options in Sacramento County

RPC Meetings

The RPC meets regularly at Sierra Health Foundation. The meetings are open to the public; however, a limited number of seats are available and must be reserved at least one week before each meeting on a first-come, first-served basis. A meeting schedule, meeting documents, a public registration form and other materials are posted on the RPC web page at www.sierrahealth.org/rpc.

Learn More

For more information about the Respite Partnership Collaborative, contact Sierra Health Foundation Program Officer Myel Jenkins at mjenkins@sierrahealth.org or (916) 922-4755 x3315.