



INNOVATION PLAN APPROVAL SUMMARY
Santa Barbara County
Benefit Acquisition for High-Risk Indigent Individuals

Total Requested for Innovation: \$3,048,000

Staff Recommend: APPROVAL

Review History

County Submitted Innovation Work Plan: July 14, 2010
MHSOAC Vote regarding Plan Approval: August 26, 2010

County Demographic Profile

- Population: 407,057
 - Latino: 39.5%
 - APA: 4.5%
 - Native American 1.7%
 - African American 2.4%
- Age
 - 23.63% under age 18
 - 13.0% age 65 or older

Duration: three years

Similar to other MHSOAC Innovation Programs: none

Key Features of Innovation Program

- Adapts benefits counseling programs currently practiced in mental health and other health and social service systems, including the well evaluated SOAR model, for individuals with serious mental illness who are homeless
- Combines benefits counseling with integrated recovery-oriented supports provided by a multi-disciplinary team, including peer support, case management, medication support, and access to wraparound services

Expected Contribution to Learning and Development of New/Improved Mental Health Approaches

- Assess whether specialized benefits acquisition teams providing integrated, recovery-oriented services and supports will increase interagency collaboration and streamline benefits acquisition for high-risk, indigent, homeless individuals with severe and persistent mental illness
- Project to be evaluated by a team of diverse stakeholders, including consumers, family members, and representatives of ethnic communities

Example Reviewer Comments

- Appreciated peer support specialists and bilingual and bicultural teams
- Asked for and received clarification from County about centrality of recovery and peer support in integrated service model