

Comments about the MHSA PEI Technical Assistance and Training Policy

For OAC Cultural and Linguistic Competence Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Observation: the policy paper appeared to be written in the language of high level communication; the lack of specificity can lead to wide range of interpretation of the policy and the intent of the act to set aside specific fund for PEI purposes. The work group would like to see the content and guidelines of the policy paper have closer and logical linkage to the original OAC policy listed on p.3 of the document. The opinion of the workgroup is such that the policy language used on page 3 provides good general guidelines of the intended use of the funding. This language was taken directly from the original policy paper on County and State level direction for PEI that was agreed upon by the relevant parties and adopted by the OAC in January of 2007. It should be noted that according to this language, the goal of statewide training and technical assistance is to improve the capacity of partners *outside* of the mental health system....” (emphasis added).

Concerns:

1. There was no specific outcome/performance measures described. It is uncertain who will be responsible for tracking the work being done and how the funding is being used, or if the usage is consistent to the intent of the funding. It is uncertain if counties are required to submit reports documenting their work and usage of the fund.
2. The policy paper does not make apparent reference to PEI except in one place. It is not sure if the TA and Training fund will be used to:
 - track or measure the reduction of disparities in ethnic diverse communities as a result of PEI and MHSA efforts
 - increase the capacity of county as well as its partners in providing services that is more culturally appropriate
 - measure if and how PEI programs have improve California’s quality of life and reduction of mental health issues

Recommendations:

1. Counties should provide reports documenting how they have used the fund to address issues in enhancing organization capacity in better serving the community, especially the traditionally underserved ethnic communities. In other words, the report should

address how the funding has been used to address the intent outlined on page 3 of the policy paper. The reports should be reviewed with the original proposal/request of fund described in the “short form.” The three areas outlined in “concerns 2” should be included in the report.

2. Some review and tracking process should be established to make sure the funding is being used for its original intent and with proper adherence to the policy. Success review should be the condition for counties receiving funding for the new fiscal years.
3. To reduce disparities and enhancing the competency in system and service delivery, partnership with ECBO’s (ethnic community based organizations) should be strongly encouraged, in designing and/or providing the training and technical assistance.