

AGENDA ITEM: Discuss Evaluation Framework

- ENCLOSURES:**
- Policy Paper: Accountability through Evaluation Efforts Focusing on Oversight, Accountability and Evaluation November 8, 2010—Adopted November 18, 2010
 - MHSOAC Evaluation Committee Background Information Summary of Goals/Outcomes/Indicators From MHSA and Systems of Care Statutes—August 16, 2010
 - MHSOAC Summary of MHSA Evaluation Deliverables
 - Matrix of Public Mental Health System Prioritized Performance Indicators

OTHER MATERIAL RELATED TO ITEM: None

Issue:

The MHSOAC Evaluation Committee Charter includes development of an Evaluation Framework. It is intended to build on the Accountability Policy Paper that was approved by the Commission November 2010. The Committee will begin work on this Framework at the February 23, 2011 meeting. The final product is scheduled for presentation to the Commission in September 2011.

Background:

Through the Evaluation Committee, 1) we have compiled a list of all the statutory goals/indicators/outcomes from the MHSA and related system of care statutes; 2) compiled a list of the deliverables for state level evaluations; and 3) approved priority indicators for CSS.

There are two additional documents from the federal level that you may find helpful. One is a U.S. General Accountability Office (GAO) report of a study on the criteria that mature agencies use to plan evaluations. The other is the Evaluation Framework develop by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) that is being used by CIMH and UCLA, among others.

Brief Summary of GAO Report

The GAO found that the four general criteria agencies use to plan evaluations were remarkably similar: 1) strategic priorities representing major program or policy area concerns or new initiatives; 2) program-level problems or opportunities; 3) critical unanswered questions or evidence gaps; and 4) the feasibility of conducting a valid study, addressing a range of pragmatic issues such as whether data were available and

X INFORMATION

TAB SECTION: 5

___ ACTION REQUIRED

DATE OF MEETING: 2/24/11

PREPARED BY: Lyon, Hood

DATE MATERIAL PREPARED: 2/17/11

at what cost, whether the proposed evaluation could answer questions persuasively, and whether grantees had the interest and capacity to participate in evaluation. (The full report is available at <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-11-176>.)

Questions regarding values, in contrast with those regarding facts, generally involve three interrelated issues: merit (i.e. quality), worth (i.e. cost effectiveness) and significance (i.e. importance.)

Brief Summary of Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Evaluation Framework

There are 6 steps: 1) engage stakeholders, 2) describe the program, 3) focus the evaluation design, 4) gather credible evidence, 5) justify conclusions, and 6) ensure use and lessons learned. An iterative process is used to accomplish the entire framework. It appears that these steps were designed for an evaluator; however, some of the steps also could be appropriate for the MHSOAC in developing the evaluation framework. (A complete description of this framework can be obtained at <http://www.cdc.gov/eval/framework.htm>.)

This framework also includes standards to achieve in evaluation, including utility, feasibility, propriety and accuracy.

Development of Framework

The Committee will provide guidance on the structure and content of the framework. Staff will draft products based on committee discussion for further committee review and input.

A first step is to clarify and gain consensus on the goal/purpose of this framework. A draft purpose statement is provided below for discussion purposes.

The Evaluation Framework is intended to provide broad long-term guidance for the Evaluation Committee and Commission to obtain resources and/or plan for evaluation, including

- a) Principles for determining priorities for MHSOAC evaluation resources addressing strategic priorities and feasibility of evaluation.*
- b) Standardized structure for approaching evaluation, e.g. competitive process, MHSA values embedded, stakeholder participation, etc.*
- c) How information developed through evaluation will be used.*

Further development of the framework at this meeting will be based on the agreed upon purpose.

