

PROPOSAL "C"
FOR FY 2011/12 MHSOAC EVALUATION

Name of Proposed Evaluation: Assess Impact of Early Intervention Programs

Brief Description:

Assess use of PEI funds for early intervention programs, which are focused on individuals with serious early manifestation of mental illness/emotional disturbance and their families, including types of programs/services provided and costs.

Evaluate the impact of a selection of PEI early intervention programs. Examples of types of programs include those that address "first break" psychosis, early recognition of signs of potentially serious and disabling mental illness by community gatekeepers, and increased access and successful linkage to treatment for people with serious mental illness/emotional disturbance. The evaluator shall review and link when possible to existing local, state, and national efforts, such as the California Alliance Benchmarking indicators. Determining the critical factors that make the programs successful and calculating costs and benefits of such programs would be desirable.

Purpose (check all that apply)

- Inform and Improve Services Assess and Communicate Impact
 Inform and Improve Policy Gain Insight
 Affect Those Who Participate in the Inquiry
 Other, specify _____

Audience and Uses

MHSOAC, policy makers and the public to understand use and impact of PEI funds for individuals with serious mental illness and their families
Service providers, clients and family members to identify effective PEI practices

Questions

The primary focus is to determine the impact of a selection of PEI early intervention programs on individuals with serious mental illness and their families and on the public mental health system. A secondary goal is to determine to what extent and in what ways PEI funds are being used for early intervention.

Priority Goals/Outcomes/Indicators from MHSA/SOC Statute

Reduce prolonged suffering that may result from untreated mental illness.
Reduce duration of untreated severe mental illness. Families, employers, primary care health care providers, and others increase capacity to recognize early signs of potentially severe and disabling mental illness. Improve access and linkage to medically necessary care provided by county mental health programs for children with severe mental illness and for adults and seniors with severe mental illness, as early in the onset of these conditions as practicable.

Outcome Consistent with MHSOAC Logic Model

Strategies 2, 5, 6, and 7

MHSOAC Estimated Funding Need \$ \$200K to \$500K

One-year only Multi-year (specify number of years)

Describe other resources available (if applicable)

Note: Although this project is conceptualized as one-year only, a multi-year process may be needed as programs move from initial start-up phase to generating useful data for evaluation (takes a few years to assess whether a program model is producing desired outcomes, as well as to track sufficient numbers of clients through program to conduct inferential analyses).