



## **INNOVATIVE PROJECT APPROVAL SUMMARY**

### **Riverside County**

**Name of Innovative Project: Transition-Age Youth (TAY) Drop-In Center**

**Total Requested for Innovative Project: \$18,574,970**

**Duration of Innovative Project: Five Years**

**Staff Recommends: APPROVAL**

#### **Review History**

County submitted Innovation (INN) Plan: June 16, 2015.

Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC or Commission) vote on INN Project: August 27, 2015

#### **Innovative Project Summary**

Riverside County is seeking MHSOAC approval for the following INN Project: TAY Drop-In Center. The Project has the dual primary purposes of increasing the quality of services and outcomes and promoting interagency collaboration. This five-year INN Project is the result of Riverside County stakeholders identifying a need to develop and evaluate a new approach to training TAY peer staff in order to expand and strengthen the service array for TAY, including those experiencing a first psychotic break. The project was developed primarily by a TAY Collaborative, whose members included providers serving TAY across the county as well as TAY consumers of mental health services. The Collaborative reflects a diversity of ethnicities and geographic representation (Western, Mid-County, and Desert regions).

Workforce development for TAY Peer Support Specialists (PSS) will fill a gap between adult and child service systems. While adult services frequently include peer staff and child services often include parent partners, peers with lived experience in the mental health system as a child or a young adult are generally missing from service delivery for TAY youth (age 16-25). The availability of trained TAY PSS is expected to improve the quality of services and to increase engagement and improve outcomes for TAY youth with risk or presence of a mental illness and their families.

## **Transition-Age Youth (TAY) Training Project in Dedicated Drop-In Centers**

Riverside County Department Mental Health (RCDMH) proposes to develop a new comprehensive TAY PSS pre-employment training approach, to be implemented in TAY Drop-In Centers in three regions, each with unique resources, populations, and challenges. The Drop-In Centers will serve as a hub for training as well as service delivery and will include the following integrated elements:

1. *Creation and implementation of a TAY PSS training curriculum:* Currently there is no specific curriculum available to develop a workforce of TAY PSS to work with TAY and their families to support recovery from mental illness. The curriculum will be utilized for pre-employment training.
2. *Adapting First Episode Psychosis (FEP), an evidence-based practice, by fully incorporating TAY PSS staff:* FEP teams currently do not utilize Peer Supports in service delivery for first-episode psychosis, which disproportionately affects TAY. Adapting this model, which was developed through the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), Recovery After an Initial Schizophrenia Episode (RAISE) Project, to incorporate TAY PSS fully and meaningfully into the interdisciplinary teams will provide a unique opportunity to enhance TAY PSS work skills and learn about the effectiveness of the adaptation with regard to the quality of service delivery and outcomes for TAY clients.
3. *TAY Drop-In Center:* TAY PSS will have the opportunity to practice their skills and further their professional development in the supportive work environment of the TAY Drop-In Centers. Co-locating agency partners such as probation, child welfare, education, housing, public health, and employment within the centers will enhance integration of care for TAY and their families. Co-location will also provide opportunities for agencies to communicate and network regarding issues and concerns affecting TAY, with expected greater coordination of resources, reduction of barriers to services, and improved outcomes for TAY clients and their families.

The County hopes that graduates of the training Project will as volunteers or as paid employees provide services to TAY affected by mental illness and their families in a variety of integrated setting with continued links to RCDMH and partner agencies.

### **Evaluation:**

The primary intended outcomes of the Project are:

#### Trainees

- Improved work skills
- Positive training completion rates
- Increased knowledge
- Successful integration into interdisciplinary FEP teams
- Success in extent to which and capacity in which trained TAY PSS are utilized as paid employees or as volunteers

### TAY Clients

- Engagement and retention in mental health services
- Reduction in crisis and/or psychiatric hospitals
- Recovery outcomes
- Improved psycho-social functioning
- Positive education, vocational, and employment outcomes

### Community Partners

- Changed knowledge and attitudes regarding potential contributions of TAY PSS to service delivery
- Hiring of TAY PSS
- Improved and increased collaboration

The evaluation will assess the contributions of the various elements of the training project and will compare challenges and outcomes in training hubs in each of the RCDMH regions. Qualitative and quantitative measures will include RCDMH electronic health records, surveys of perceptions of partner agencies, and other data sources. A TAY Collaborative stakeholder group consisting of consumers, family members, service providers and other interested community members will meet regularly to review the project's progress and make recommendations.