



INNOVATION PLAN APPROVAL SUMMARY

Plumas County Innovation

Name of Innovative Program: School-Based Response Team (SBRT)

Total Requested for Innovation: \$947,100

Duration of Innovative Programs: Three Years

Staff Recommends: APPROVAL

Review History

County Discussed Innovation Plan: March 13, 2015

Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) vote on Innovation Plan: May 28, 2015

Innovation Plan Summary

Plumas County is seeking MHSOAC approval for the following Innovative Program:

School-Based Response Team (SBRT)

Plumas County Mental Health is developing a collaborative response team to specifically respond to critical incidents involving students with early onset of mental illness who are being bullied or exhibiting suicidal behavior. The primary purpose of this Innovation program is to promote interagency and community collaboration. Plumas County is adapting an existing evidence-based practice utilized by Los Angeles County and others to meet the needs of Plumas County's small, rural community.

This three-year Innovative project is the result of Plumas County Mental Health Services Act stakeholders reporting that suicidal behavioral and school safety, including threats and bullying are important school issues that need to be addressed. When an incident occurs at a local school, there are no standard protocols for how to deal with the situation, assess for and respond to mental illness components or who to call for assistance. The Innovation project will focus on developing a collaborative process and team to respond systematically to these critical incidents, including school threats, suicidal behavior, and/or bullying. This project will identify one or two staff from each of the following agencies: mental health, probation, law enforcement, and the schools to be the key members of the team. The coordinated services will also include the Crisis Intervention

Team (CIT) that is being implemented by law enforcement with the intent to provide an opportunity to train staff from multiple agencies and develop a consistent protocol for responding to crisis situations across this rural community. This collaborative team will be known as the School-Based Response Team (SBRT). The team will respond to situations across the county and conduct a comprehensive mental health and crisis evaluation to determine what is most effective in each situation, with protocols developed to help respond and evaluate the outcome of each situation. The SBRT will also follow-up with each student, classroom, teacher, and/or family member, to deliver brief therapy and assess the need for additional follow-up services and if a student needs ongoing treatment, the team will provide linkages to on-going services to ensure the incident is fully resolved. The team will provide community-wide crisis response, clinical case management, follow-up services, offer suicide assessment and prevention, training to school staff on bullying prevention, and provide clinical services needed to address any identified issues. The learning goal of this project is to assess the effectiveness of this collaborative team approach, using limited resources in this rural county. They will determine the effectiveness of what works using this enhanced collaborative process and share learned outcomes so other small county programs can benefit.

Evaluation:

The Innovation Program will measure effectiveness by measuring collaboration across agencies using a tool used by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the University of Southern Florida to evaluate collaboration in Children's System of Care agencies. The Interagency Collaboration Activities Scale (IACAS) will be distributed to partner agency staff at the beginning of the project and annually.

Plumas County will also evaluate individual outcomes for youth and family, to assess the effectiveness of on-going follow-up, treatment, and recidivism. Each individual and/or family who needs on-going follow-up services will be enrolled in the evaluation activities to track individual outcomes over time to assess the effectiveness of the program.