



INNOVATION PLAN APPROVAL SUMMARY

San Diego County Innovation

Name of Innovative Program: Faith-Based Initiative

Total Requested for Innovation: \$1,495,575

Duration of Innovative Program: Three Years

Staff Recommends: APPROVAL

Review History

County Submitted Innovation Plan: February 9, 2015

MHSOAC Vote regarding Plan Approval: February 26, 2015

Innovation Plan Summary

San Diego County is seeking the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission's approval for their Innovative Program, Faith-Based Initiative (FBI). The primary purposes of this program are to increase access to underserved groups and promote interagency collaboration by establishing collaborative partnerships between San Diego County Behavioral Health Services (BHS) and Faith-based (FB) leaders/clergy and members of their congregations. This collaboration will provide targeted outreach and engagement to the African American and Latino faith communities in a culturally and linguistically relevant manner.

The program's main purpose is to develop long-lasting collaborations and partnerships with FB leaders/clergy and congregations to address underserved populations dealing with mental illness. While there are successful examples of collaboration between mental health systems and FB communities, this adaptation seeks to combine the following components into one unique program: 1) collaboration and partnerships, 2) community education, 3) crisis response, and 4) wellness and health ministry. Through this approach, the County expects to address barriers to developing collaboration in the following ways:

- *Collaboration and partnerships:* Targeted outreach and engagement will be utilized to identify and partner with "FB champions" or "FB community leaders" to participate in a "Faith-Based Academy." The academy's goal is to develop and increase knowledge about mental illness and wellness, behavioral health services including in the community and in jails, faith/spirituality principles and values, and community support services related to recovery from mental illness.

- *Community Education*: FB Champions will facilitate a community educational series in two County regions with a focus on mental illness and BHS resources.
- *Crisis Response*: A mobile community-based FB team will pair a clinician with a clergy member to respond to individual/family mental health crisis situations, including suicides, homicides or domestic violence, on a 24/7 on-call system. The team will provide at-home crisis intervention, counseling, support services and linkages to BHS and other community supports as needed.
- *Wellness and Health Ministry*: The program will serve adults in jail with a severe mental illness and will include engagement and connection; spiritual support; information about the impact and effects of untreated mental illness, co-occurring disorders and trauma; support for mental and physical health and wellness; support services consistent with pastoral counseling; and links to community resources to support reintegration.

Evaluation:

The program will measure improved access to BHS and to community mental health resources for currently underserved populations: for the Innovative Program overall and for all program elements. In addition, each engagement strategy will be evaluated independently as each has distinct intended outcomes. Data to be collected include:

- *Interagency Collaboration*: How many mental health, substance abuse agencies and faith communities collaborate and what elements that contributed to successful partnerships.
- *FB Academy*: The level of knowledge gained about mental health and substance abuse recovery and behavioral health services; reduced stigma, including congregants' comfort to seek behavioral health services for themselves or others. The evaluation will assess how individuals use this new information and their new relationships
- *Wellness and Health Ministry*: The program will evaluate if this intervention increases engagement in behavioral health services by comparing rates pre- and post-incarceration, length of time engaged in services post-incarceration, and recovery measures.
- *Crisis Response*: The program will evaluate the effectiveness of this intervention with participants and family members as assessed by successful linkages to BHS services and community supports, diversion from incarceration or juvenile detention, increased knowledge about mental illness and wellness, stigma reduction measures, and participant satisfaction.

The evaluation will provide bi-annual reports of services and outcomes for each of the three years of the program. Results will be presented to the Central and North Inland Faith Based Councils for review and input.