



INNOVATIVE PROJECT APPROVAL SUMMARY

Marin County

Name of Innovative Project: Growing Roots: The Young Adult Services Project

Total Requested for Project: \$ 1,616,900

Duration of Innovative Projects: Four Years

Staff Recommends: APPROVAL

Review History

County Submitted Innovation (INN) Project: February 19, 2016

Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC or Commission) vote on INN Project: March 24, 2016

Innovation Project Summary

Marin County is seeking MHSOAC approval for the following INN Project: Growing Roots: The Young Adult Services Project. The primary purpose of the Project is to increase access to underserved groups.

Marin County stakeholders, during the development of the Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan for FY 14-15 through FY 16-17, identified reducing disparities for un/underserved populations in the mental health system as a core challenge. Transition age youth (TAY) from 16-25 years old were identified as a un/underserved population that continues to be hard to reach.

The innovation project will make a change to an existing mental health practice by modifying Community Integration models. Specifically the project will focus on integrating the informal system of care for TAY with the formal system of care provided in public mental health. The project will examine the question, "Can Marin County reduce disparities in access to culturally competent behavioral health service for TAY who are at risk for or experiencing a mental illness by building on the strengths of the informal system of care?" The informal system of care includes grassroots organizations, faith based organizations, peer led groups, and other entities generally initiated and run by individuals who reflect those served. This project will form a TAY advisory council to participate in the oversight of the innovation. The project will be completed in two phases.

Phase 1: Needs Assessment of the needs of TAY in Marin County, including reviewing rates of services provided, demographics of clients and rates of involvement with employment, education, criminal justice and hospitalization. The project will also conduct focus groups and informational interviews with TAY, their families and providers to understand what an improved system of care would look like. A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be issued to identify providers serving TAY but not yet involved with the formal behavioral health services.

Phase 2: Implementation of the Action Plan will use the findings of the needs assessment to identify priorities for making changes to the system of care. They will then release an RFP to identify providers to make the identified changes. The focus will be on providers in the informal system of care but there may also be changes required by formal providers, such as expanding location of services or improving the cultural competency of services.

Evaluation

The anticipated outcomes for this project are: (1) increase the integration of the informal system of care with the formal behavioral health continuum of care, (2) increase access to culturally competent behavioral health services and improve outcomes for TAY, and (3) identify the key elements that have led to success. Marin County plans to hire an evaluator to examine process indicators and quantitative measures. Organizations contracted under Phase 2 will conduct data collection and complete other evaluation related tasks. In the last few months broader data will be collected to assist in developing a final report which will provide a description of what changes occurred, what elements led to the changes and lessons learned.