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Evaluation of El Dorado County’s MHSA Three Year Expenditure Plan
CSS Review Committee Members: Mark LeBeau, Kay Tucker and Rosie Lamb
April 3, 2006

Overall Review

The Committee believes that El Dorado’s plan is a good start towards transformation overall. It needs further development in some areas but this does not take away the effort and energy put forth thus far in their planning and implementation process. The Committee understands that this is a learning process for all involved and it will take some time for counties to reach their full potential towards a resiliency, wellness and recovery focused model of mental health services delivery. The County is to be commended for holding meetings at different times of the day to accommodate the variety of participant work schedules. The County reached out to some populations such as the Latino community but needs to ensure that other groups are not left out including the Native American, African American, Asian American, LGBT and disabled communities. The Committee feels that with persistence and dedication El Dorado County is on it’s way towards transformative mental health service delivery.

Consumer and Family Involvement

The Committee is concerned regarding the level of consumer involvement and support given to consumers and family members during the planning process. The County recognized in its planning process the need to develop better partnerships with community based organizations that interface with clients. Additionally, the Committee appreciated the listing on pages 23-26 of the community concerns and the county department responses.

OAC Concerns:

- The Committee is concerned regarding the method of communication for the workgroups. On page 14 it stated that the county workgroups met via teleconferencing.... *were special measures taken for those workgroup members who did not have a phone? Were any consumers who were on the workgroups also involved in writing the plan?*
- The Committee will monitor the County’s collaboration efforts with the Native American community in the future. By partnering with local Native American

- community based organizations, the County will be better equipped to collect accurate and reliable data on the needs of Native Americans with mental illness.
- The Committee requests additional information regarding the composition of the Advisory Committee. It states that there are consumers and family members on the committee but it is not known what age groups, regions of the county, or ethnic groups they are representing.

Fully Served, Underserved/Inappropriately Served, Unserved:

The Committee believes that the County did a good job in identifying who the unserved, underserved and inappropriately served consumers were in their county.

Wellness/Recovery/Resilience:

El Dorado County should be commended for their work with the Latino population and their outreach to this community. They identified which strategies they would utilize to best serve this ethnic group. However, the Committee was concerned that other groups were not given the same attention as the Latino population. In addition, the County has a great approach to defining cultural competency in that it will be engaging the consumer and family members in a discussion regarding their culture and their needs as they fit within their culture.

OAC Concerns:

- The Committee would like to see all ethnic groups addressed with the same attention that was given to the Latino population, such as the African American, Asian American, disabled and LGBT populations.
- The Committee questions why no mention was made regarding the suicide rate in the county.

Education and Training and Workforce Development

Consumers and family members will be hired by the County to provide mental health services in their proposed plan.

OAC Concerns:

- The Committee is concerned regarding the lack of information on retraining of staff and was not able to identify any money within the budgets allotted for this. Is it to be assumed that this is addressed with the money for specific types of training, i.e. motivational interviewing, cultural competency etc.?

Collaboration:

In some areas the County was strong in identifying what community based organizations it can collaborate with to provide mental health services, specifically with organizations providing services to the Latino population and older adults. The County is to be commended for reaching out to PG&E and training their staff on how to identify older adults who are in need of mental health services. There is some evidence of leveraging of funds as evidenced by the County using their tobacco settlement funds for flex funds.

OAC Concerns:

- Does the County plan to collaborate with labor and business groups to expand community participation?
- Does the County plan to provide training to existing and new staff on how to collaborate with community based organizations, such as faith based groups and ethnic and cultural organizations?

WORKPLANS**#1 Family Centered Services Program**

The Committee was impressed by this plan overall and the County's decision to expand their SB 163 program. The County will be providing oversight to the community based organization that provides the service. The County is to be commended for clearly outlining the strategies to be used in providing the service.

OAC Concerns:

- The Committee would like to know what will happen to children placed out of county, will their cases be re-evaluated to determine if they would be appropriate for wraparound services.
- What is the ratio for mental health staff to clients?

#2 Mental Health Court

This program will be funded with system development funds. The Committee agrees that this is a much-needed service.

OAC Concerns:

- While the committee agrees that this is a much needed service, the committee would like to know if the idea to fund a mental health court was borne out of the planning process from consumers and family members or more of an idea originated with the county and supported by consumers and family members.
- The Committee does not deduct from the proposed plan evidence of ongoing consumer and family member participation in the workplan itself.
- On page 78 it states that individuals from other counties will not be served. What happens to individuals with mental illness who are arrested but not residents of El Dorado County? Or residents of El Dorado County who are arrested in neighboring counties?
- On page 79 it states that information will be tracked to determine how many days consumers are at work or school to help measure outcomes, who is measuring this? Is this system already in place or will it be established?
- Within the workplan it states that consumers will be referred to the TOP program; is funding available for the increase in consumers to be served by this program once the mental health court is up and running?

#3 Wellness Program

This workplan contains strong collaboration with other state/county agencies, such as Department of Rehabilitation and CalWorks. The County is utilizing existing resources.

OAC Concerns:

- How will county ensure that services are provided in a culturally competent manner?
- Has the county identified any community based organizations to partner with in providing this service to consumers?
- On page 94 there is a long list of collaboration strategies, has the county begun to implement these strategies and is there a specific individual overseeing the implementation of these strategies?

#4 Project Uplift

This workplan is focused on the older adult population of El Dorado County. This program will be using all three sources of funds: full service partnership, system development and outreach and engagement. The County will be focusing on those older adults who are suffering from depression and in danger of no longer being able to reside independently.

OAC Concerns:

- Will the County partner with Shingle Springs Indian Health Center to provide this service as they already provide services to older adults within their existing service model?
- Has the County identified other community based and faith based organizations that will be able to assist them in reaching out to this population and assist them with providing culturally competent services.
- LGBT older adults have very different needs than other LGBT populations, how does the county propose to meet their specific needs? The Committee did not feel that this was adequately addressed.

#5 Latino Engagement Initiative

This program will serve all ages of consumers who are isolated and at-risk of having unmet health needs. The majority of this program will be funded with system development money. The entire program is to be contracted out. There appears to be good collaboration within this plan with community based agencies in the county.

OAC Concerns:

- Have funds been allocated to provide training services to staff at the community based agency?

CONCLUSION

Question: The overarching question for the Oversight and Accountability Commission is:” How will the three-year Community Services and Supports plan move your county system toward the standard of comprehensive, timely, appropriate services in the Mental Health Services Act?” **The Commission asks that the county prepare to answer this question as the first year of CSS plans are implemented.**

The Commission recognizes the need to build a more reliable baseline of information available to everyone, so that answers can be understood within a context. To do so, the Commission is seeking to develop a description of the mental health system in your county, and in all counties, including an explanation of the structure of the service delivery system, access policies for all children and adults, and range of services received by those not in a categorical funded program.

The Commission is working to develop a baseline to assess the gaps between existing standards of care in mental health and the comprehensive, integrated services envisioned by the Mental Health Services Act. Statewide and national reports tell us that services have been limited and effectively rationed because funding is not tied to caseloads. The Commission believes it will be advantageous to all of the individuals and the private and public organizations involved in change, and beneficial to the public, to have a realistic understanding of the challenges to transforming the mental health system.

In the coming year, the Commission will seek information such as the average caseloads for personal service coordinators and/or case managers and for psychiatrists for the largest percentage of people served. We would like to know what percentage of all mental health consumers are receiving or have access to comprehensive, appropriate, and integrated services, such as individual or group therapy, family counseling, routine medical and dental care, educational or vocational training, substance abuse treatment, supportive housing, and other recovery-oriented services.