

MHSA Innovation Community Planning Consumer Meetings

From the previous community planning meetings held in each major city in Solano County, the focus was narrowed to the funding priority of *increasing access for underserved groups*.

Three community planning meetings were held with consumers who were current participants in mental health programs to gather further input into which underserved groups should be targeted and what activities should be included in the Innovation Plan.

The planning meetings began with a brief background about the guidelines for innovation and then two key questions were asked:

- Who do you think is underserved in mental health?
- What activities should we do help the underserved access services?

For the second question, participants were provided the following four activities as examples and asked if they agreed with these activities:

- A psychiatrist/medication support at primary care sites
- Therapist and/or medication support at homeless shelter
- Medication support for community based organizations who do not have it
- Mobile mental health clinic that could visit different sites in Solano.

Participants were then asked to identify additional activities that would assist underserved in accessing mental health services.

Neighborhood of Dreams, Fairfield July 15, 2009

Attendees: 13 mental health consumers, 2 staff

Who do you think is underserved in mental health?

- Homeless, including Mission Solano residents
- People in need of a halfway house
- Uninsured
- People with a share of cost/co-pay
- People with a recent diagnosis who don't know how to get services
- People who need transportation
- Vacaville, Dixon, other remote areas
- People who have had mental health services cut

Activities to reach underserved:

- Agreed with medication support at primary care, clinician/medication support for the homeless, and a mobile mental health unit
- More case managers
- Help getting family support
- Need privacy for mobile group
- Not everyone wants services—people need to be encouraged to attend
- Outreach via newspaper, TV ads, other free advertising
- Pastors and counselors could help
- Mobile for address changes
- First Break/Teams
- More bilingual/bicultural Staff
- A mobile clinic at Northbay, Kaiser, the library, senior centers, the civic center, Neighborhood of Dreams, Solano College, Solano County Mental Health, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), the adult school, community centers, etc.
- Expand Laurel Creek so people can stay there longer
- Create an interactive website that includes Neighborhood of Dreams, Mental Health, and other services
- Assist the homeless in receiving services
 - Referrals
 - Meals & place to hang out, housing, churches
- New programs at Neighborhood of Dreams:
 - Bible Study
 - More groups, including a group about dreams, life skills, budgeting & finance, driving, information & resources, educational groups on mental illness
 - More WRAP
 - Friday night socials, game playing
 - Outings into community

- Assistance in starting a business
- Lunch time
- Benefits help
- Employment help, job placement, including increasing Department of Rehab services
- Bring back Daybreak.

**Consumer/Family Advisory Committee
Laurel Creek
July 15, 2009**

Attendees: 8 mental health consumers

Who do you think is underserved in mental health?

- People with drug and alcohol co-occurring disorders
- Veterans/service people
- Young people.

Activities to reach underserved:

- Agreed with medication support at primary care, clinician/medication support for the homeless
- Relaxation techniques
- Psychotherapist/psychiatrist after jail.

Neighborhood of Dreams, Vallejo July 16, 2009

Attendees: 15 mental health consumers

Who do you think is underserved in mental health?

- Homeless
- People in board & cares who are connected to programs
- Unemployed
- Dual diagnosis.

Activities to reach underserved:

- Agreed with clinician/medication support for homeless
- Sing along
- Employment support, including resume writing, computers, and ongoing job coaching
- Dancing, exercise
- Wellness services for youth
- Community outings
- Christian/religious services
- College re-entry program
- Helping people get into the military
- One stop benefits shop.