



County of Orange

Health Care Agency Behavioral Health Services

Mental Health Services Act

Community Services and Supports

One-Time Funding

Program Expansion Plan

December 11, 2007

Executive Summary

Community Services and Supports One-Time Funding Program Expansion Plan

Background

Effective April 1, 2006, the California State Department of Mental Health (DMH) approved Orange County's Three-Year Community Services and Supports (CSS) Plan. Accordingly, Orange County was awarded approximately \$25.5 million in Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Community Services and Supports Funding for each of three fiscal years (2005/06, 2006/07, and 2007/08). Then in July 2007, DMH awarded to Orange County approximately \$9 million in CSS "Growth Funding."

When additional CSS funding became available to counties, DMH issued Information Notice 07-21, which provides guidance on how counties may apply for these CSS One-Time Augmentation Funds. To access this funding, a county must submit both an update to its existing Three-Year CSS Plan and a request to amend its existing MHSA Agreement. Orange County is eligible to receive \$1,339,300.

Planning Process

In Orange County, the funds will be used for the expansion of existing programs that were developed as a result of an extensive community planning process. Thus, no new planning process is required for these one-time funds. Based on the information obtained in the previous planning processes, Behavioral Health Services Staff developed a written plan that provided for the expansion of two existing CSS programs (Adult Integrated Services and Adult Outreach and Engagement).

Next, the Plan and a public comment form were sent out to stakeholders, Steering Committee members, and the community for review during a thirty-day public comment period (November 8, 2007 through December 8, 2007.) A copy of the Plan and the public comment form were also posted on the Orange County MHSA website. Also posted on the website was an Executive Summary of the plan and information on how to obtain hard copies. In addition, the Executive Summary was translated into Spanish and Vietnamese. Copies of the Plan were sent to all those who requested a copy. No substantive comments were received, just comments reflecting strong support of the Plan.

Programs

Expansion of the Adult Integrated Services Program (Full Service Partnership Program (A1 in the original CSS Plan)

Orange County will expand its array of integrated service programs by adding 65 slots to its existing Full Service Partnership program. The current number of slots available for FY 2007/08 is 479. Thus, the new total number of clients served annually will be 544. The amount requested is \$884,310.

The target population is adults with severe mental illness, including those with co-occurring substance abuse disorders, who are at risk of institutionalization, criminal justice involvement and/or homelessness; or who have recently been discharged from institutions or jails. The expansion will allow continued intensive community-based services and supports that will utilize a team approach and will include consumers as service providers. The program will maintain 24/7 service availability. There will continue to be a focus on providing co-occurring capable services.

The team uses community resources whenever feasible, and uses flexible funding to provide socialization activities, recreational, educational and other learning opportunities to engage the client based upon the individual's interests. In addition, other team members may be added periodically, based upon the client's strengths, needs and goals. These may include the client's pastor or spiritual leader, family members, probation officer, employer, etc.

Expansion of the Adult Outreach and Engagement Program (A5 in the original CSS Plan)

Orange County plans to expand its Outreach and Engagement Program by adding three bilingual staff to its existing Program. The amount requested is \$254,095.

Community Outreach and Engagement Services reach out and engage individuals with serious mental illness in historically unserved and underserved populations. It is expected that with this expanded funding, an additional 120 individuals will be linked to services during FY 2007/08. When added to the current target number (181), this will bring the total target number for clients served in FY 2007/08 to 301.

Partnerships may include community-based health organizations, community health clinics, and primary care physicians. This will increase the engagement of individuals in ethnically and linguistically diverse communities who are unfamiliar with service delivery in traditional mental health settings. Outreach will also include traditional outreach efforts to areas populated with potential mental health consumers who do not seek mental health services.

Mental health clinicians will screen, assess, and link clients to the most appropriate resource, including Full Service Partnerships. Services will be culturally competent and client and family-focused. Services will promote recovery and resilience, while maintaining respect for the beliefs and cultural practices of the individuals receiving those services. The outreach and engagement services will be culturally-focused, including access to bilingual, bicultural staff.

Conclusion

This plan is based on the planning processes for both the original CSS funds and the CSS Growth Funding. A large number of community stakeholders including consumers and family members were included in every step of the planning for those two earlier funding streams.

Approval and implementation of these program expansions will provide additional resources to help the Orange County population living with serious mental illness and assist in the continued efforts to transform the public mental health system.

Review of the budget information demonstrates that the County met the DMH mandate that more than 50% of the funding be spent on Full Service Partnerships.