

Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Partnership

1st Quarter 2007 Update

Community Re-Assessment

Project Manager and consultant, Michael Felix, met with several key stakeholders as part of a second community-wide assessment of mental health and substance abuse services. The first assessment was conducted in 2001 and resulted in the report, "Mental Illness and Substance Abuse in Larimer County: The Challenges We Face" and was also used to direct the work of the Partnership. Information being collected currently will be analyzed to see how things have changed, compiled into a 2nd report, used by the Partnership's Steering Committee to set priorities for the next 5 years, and shared with the community.

Combined Services Center (Detox/ATU)

A formal report on combined services centers (ATU/detox) in Larimer and Weld Counties was presented to key partners in January. Recommendations for the Weld County center included the addition of a crisis assessment team and the use of the existing Island Grove (substance abuse treatment provider) building. Island Grove Regional Treatment Center and North Range Behavioral Health (community mental health center in Greeley) combined resources to hire a local project manager to take on the process of finalizing and implementing the business plan in Weld County. It is anticipated that services will begin late in 2007. It is expected that crisis assessment services will be phased in to the facility in Greeley with additional funding provided by multiple community partners including North Colorado Medical Center. Business planning for the Larimer County facility will resume in May and will build upon the Weld County process. The Weld County combined services center must be developed and operational first to allow for the cost shifting and savings necessary for the development of the same services in Larimer County. In Larimer County a significant shortfall exists for on-going operational funding. Key stakeholders in the community are supportive of the new services center and have stated they will contribute financially to covering the shortfall. Formal negotiations will take place 3rd or 4th quarter 2007. Planning for a major capital campaign to finance the construction of a new building will begin in 2007. At this point our estimated opening date is 2009.

Co-Occurring Effort

Another workgroup is actively planning for the creation of an Integrated Dual Disorder Treatment (IDDT) team. IDDT is an evidence-based practice designed for people with severe co-occurring disorders. Intensive case management, aggressive outreach and housing and employment assistance are key components of this treatment model. Staff is working with key partners to identify existing community resources that can be restructured to support an IDDT program that will meet the specific needs of our community. Services are anticipated to begin January 1, 2008.

A group of individuals have been identified and called together for two initial meetings to address problem solving efforts surrounding the issue of intoxicated, combative patients at the PVH Emergency Department who lack an appropriate, safe placement once they have been assessed and medically cleared. Due to their combative behaviors, these individuals are sometimes not appropriate for detoxification services with Island Grove, yet have no criminal charges and therefore are not appropriate for the Larimer County Detention Center. This workgroup is working to identify both short-term and long-term solutions for this challenging population.

Education Subcommittee

A small group has continued working on an educational program for youth workers in the faith community. The trainings are scheduled for April 2007 and will include a didactic session on signs and symptoms, broaching the topic, and making a referral and a networking session with community therapists.

Vision

A well coordinated, well funded continuum of mental health and substance abuse services which will achieve our maximum potential for meeting community needs and promote a healthier community through healthier individuals and families.

Goal

Restructure our system of mental health and substance abuse services to significantly improve our responsiveness to the needs of the 60,000 people affected by mental illness and addictive disorders in our community.

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