

Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Partnership

2nd Quarter 2007 Update

Community Re-Assessment

Work on the second community-wide assessment of mental health and substance abuse services continued. Project Manager and consultant, Michael Felix, concluded their meetings with several key stakeholders and project staff began updating the "service mapping" project, a highly detailed listing of all mental health and substance abuse services within the community. Results of the service mapping project will be analyzed to see how services have changed over the past 5 years. A written summary of the key findings from stakeholder meetings and service mapping project will be included in the Partnership's upcoming report on the status of mental health and substance abuse issues in Larimer County. This report is expected to be completed in August. Steering Committee members will utilize the report in order to determine the Partnership's priorities for the next 5 years.

Co-Occurring Effort

The co-occurring project made a big step towards improving clinician competence and confidence in treating individuals with co-occurring disorders. Our 5 partner agencies: LCMH, Island Grove, Crisis Assessment Center, Integrated Care and Connections have all formally adopted a system-wide training curriculum about co-occurring disorders. This online training curriculum comes from University of South Florida and has been widely used in other parts of the country. By having all clinical staff at each agency complete this training, it ensures that our local clinicians will have a common language and common understanding about the best methods for treating both mental illness and substance abuse disorders simultaneously. The online training will be completed by the end of October. Many partner agency clinicians will then go on to take an Advanced Skills Training taught by specialized trainers from SAMHSA.

Depression in the Workplace

We are continuing to develop and refine a business plan for our Depression Toolbox product using a social enterprise model. As noted in the 1st quarter report, we piloted a 1-hour training (one component of the overall product) with 422 employees of the City of Fort Collins. An improved version of the presentation was piloted with 60 staff from the Health District. Feedback was extremely positive with some excellent suggestions for minor changes. The full comprehensive program will include a one hour presentation targeting employees, a resource rich webpage, training for supervisors, informative collateral materials, and access to Connections. Our next steps include hiring a graduate student with social enterprise expertise to finish writing our business plan and to develop a marketing plan, assuming we determine our product to be viable in the Fort Collins market. Our initial target market will be mid-size companies with an existing commitment to wellness.

Education Subcommittee

Two educational programs for youth workers in the faith community called "Tackling Teen Issues" were held in April. The trainings included a didactic session on signs and symptoms, broaching the topic, and making a referral and a networking session with community therapists. Evaluations regarding the trainings were very positive. A number of events are scheduled for 3rd and 4th quarters.

Staff Changes

Project Manager, Erin Hall, announced that she would be transitioning out of her position. A formal transition plan has been developed. Erin will remain in her position through August, decreasing her hours each month.

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.

Staff

Erin Hall
Project Manager
ehall@healthdistrict.org

Amber DeNooy
Project Specialist I
adenooy@healthdistrict.org

Kadie Leonhardt
Project Specialist II
kleonhardt@healthdistrict.org

Janelle Patrias
Project Specialist II
jpatrias@healthdistrict.org

TBA
Project Clerk

120 Bristlecone Drive
Fort Collins, CO 80524
(970) 224-5209