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**THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION,
LOCAL INITIATIVES FUNDING PARTNERS PROGRAM**

SIX MONTH NARRATIVE REPORT

(Extension Year)
January 31, 2007

Project Name: Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Partnership
National Program: Local Initiative Funding Partners
Reference Number: 048834
Report Timeframe: July 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006
Total Amount of Grant: \$290,000

Overall Project Goal:

To restructure our system of mental health and substance abuse services, significantly improving their responsiveness to the needs of the 36,000 people most affected by mental illness and addictive disorders in our community.

Subgoals:

1. Provide adequate connection to services

Assure that those in need of mental health and/or substance abuse services are offered timely assistance in connecting to appropriate available services.

2. Increase capacity for diagnosis and prescriptions

Develop increased service capacity for providing diagnosis and prescriptions, improving the timeliness of access to a provider with prescriptive authority.

3. Increase capacity, efficiency, and impact of services with two new interventions

Create services that will make an enhanced and longer-lasting impact on the health of those with mental illness and substance abuse problems.

1. What were the project's objectives and how has the project met them during the first six-months of the grant year?

Responses to questions 1 and 2 are addressed under each of the subgoals below.

2. Are there barriers or problems that are impeding your ability to meet your original objectives?

Responses to questions 1 and 2 are addressed under each of the subgoals below.

Subgoal 1. Provide adequate connection to services

A. Assure that gatekeepers have the tools they need to identify issues, intervene, and refer.

Accomplishments: An additional 422 people were trained during this 6-month period, bringing the total to 1,965 (original target was 125). The additional people trained were employees of the City of Fort Collins, the pilot site for the "Mission Wise" supported communication campaign targeting men with untreated depression. The pilot was very successful and we are currently working on a sustainable business plan to offer the training to other businesses within the community. Future educational programs for the faith community are being planned for Spring 2007 to address issues specific to youth and in the fall, and a program to address more global faith community needs. The targeted training programs for early childhood educators, health and human services staff, and law enforcement officers have been adopted by other agencies as envisioned in the transition plans.

Incomplete activities: All activities are on schedule.

B. Assure timely coordinated response, information and assistance connecting to services.

Accomplishments: Since the Connections program opened in 2002 a total of 41,544 services have been provided to 14,994 clients.

Incomplete activities: N/A; objective completed.

C. Assure an easily accessible, well-organized response system that provides immediate response and timely connection to assistance.

Accomplishments: With the opening of the Crisis Assessment Center (CAC) in the local hospital's emergency department and the implementation of other system changes, there have been a total of 6,729 mental health and 2,030 substance abuse assessments performed.

Incomplete activities: All activities are on schedule.

Subgoal 2. Increase capacity for diagnosis and prescriptions

A. Provide primary care providers with tools to appropriately diagnose, treat, and refer

Accomplishments: The Integrated Care Program provided an additional 9 presentations to 330 clinic staff. Topics included managing chronic pain in primary care settings and psychopharmacological treatment options for resistant depression. Staff will assess the educational needs of primary care providers and develop a plan for future training programs during the 2nd and 3rd quarters of 2007.

Incomplete activities: None

B. Provide expanded access to psychiatrist or other provider for prescriptions

Accomplishments: The "Integration of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment into Primary Care" program first began accepting clients in March 2005 and provided a total of 7,291 services to 1,119 clients.

Incomplete activities: N/A; objective completed.

Subgoal 3. Increase capacity, efficiency, and impact of services with two new interventions
A. Provide more comprehensive 24/7 services (acute mental health treatment and detox) in a combined, flexible local setting that allows for care at the appropriate level

Accomplishments: A Project Developer/Strategist was hired to determine the feasibility of creating sustainable 24/7 combined service centers in Larimer County and Weld County, a neighboring county to the east. The analysis will determine the feasibility of creating the 24/7 centers, barriers and strategies to address system changes needed to create a sustainable funding plan. The information will be incorporated into a draft business plan for consideration by the funding Partners.

Thus far, the focus has been primarily on what is needed to start a combined services center in Weld County and determine ongoing operational costs. The business plan recommendations for the center will be completed and reviewed on January 16 by key stakeholders. Recommendations will include the development of a crisis assessment team, detox services and acute treatment beds in one location. These changes will result in improved patient care, integrated care for people with co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders and higher level medical care for detox patients through the implementation of a proposed hybrid social detox model. It is anticipated that implementation of the recommendations will begin later in 2007.

The Weld County combined services center must be developed first to allow for the cost shifting and savings necessary for the development of the same services in Larimer County. Once this goal has been achieved in Weld County, it will allow for expedited business planning for the center in Larimer County. Larimer County stakeholders will seek funding for capital and start-up costs and some of the operational costs through a combination of a capital campaign and reorganizing the current system to maximize cost savings. Planning for a major capital campaign to finance the construction of a new building will begin in 2007 with an anticipated opening date of late 2008 or early 2009.

Incomplete activities: As noted in our previous report, the targeted date for opening the new facility was slated for 2006. It is anticipated that the business plan will project a new opening date of 2007 for Weld County and late 2008 or 2009 for Larimer County.

B. Give those being discharged from treatment (with limited options) the housing and other supports they need to transition into independent living.

Accomplishments: This goal has been expanded to include not only housing, but also multiple services for people with complex needs. Please see “Integrated treatment for people with co-occurring conditions” under question #4 below.

Incomplete activities: The original timeline stated that a new Transitional Housing program would open in the spring of 2006. The new timeline for beginning IDDT services, including housing, will occur in late 2007.

3. Are there any immediate technical assistance requirements, or specific issues you would like to bring to the attention of the National Program Office staff?

Not at this time.

4. Is there anything else you would like to tell the staff at the National Program Office?

Update on Integrated treatment for people with co-occurring conditions.

We are actively working on creating an Integrated Dual Disorder Treatment (IDDT) team. IDDT is an evidence-based practice designed for people with co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders that require intensive and comprehensive services. Housing and employment assistance

are key components of this treatment model. Through funding provided by the Advancing Colorado's Mental Health Care project, 14 people involved with this project attended a two-day conference in Columbus, Ohio in September regarding integrated co-occurring treatment. Ohio is a leader in the nation in IDDT. In December, 11 people involved in the project went on a 3-day site visit to observe two uniquely different IDDT programs. Site visits were made to facilities near Columbus, Ohio and Decatur, Illinois. These site visits provided an invaluable opportunity to learn more about how other communities are providing IDDT. We are now in the process of working with our community partners to design an IDDT program by restructuring how existing services are provided by several organizations to meet specific needs of our community.

Training on state-of-the-art (evidence based) treatment for mental health and substance abuse professionals.

Two training programs were held during this reporting period. The first training was on regulations and procedures for requesting an involuntary commitment for clients with severe drug and alcohol problems. Twenty-five mental health and substance abuse counselors attended the training. The second training focused on a community-wide event on treatment for individuals with co-occurring disorders. The turnout for this event exceeded expectations with over 200 local mental health professionals attending. Included in the event was a "service fair" which highlighted local resources and educated providers about available referral options.

Project Connect.

As a result of Project Connect, Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave accepted our invitation to participate in a site visit in August. Congresswoman Musgrave, her policy analyst and a local aide attended. In addition, Congressman Ken Salazar accepted an invitation to participate in a site visit in October. Congressman Salazar, his regional director, regional representative and daughter attended. Congresswoman Musgrave and Congressman Salazar invited us to meet with them in the future regarding funding for the ATU/detox facility. No RWJF funds were used for this activity. Partner agency contributions funded both site visits.

Nonprofit Capacity Building Project (through CHEF).

The original focus for the capacity building project was to develop a local detox/ATU facility (see 3A above). An additional focus on depression in the workplace has been added. As noted in 1A above, the depression in the workplace pilot training programs with the City of Fort Collins was successful and the evaluations showed an overall positive response with valuable feedback on the effort. We are enthusiastic about the project and are moving forward in 2007 with the development of a written business plan that will be completed by 3rd quarter 2007. Staff attended several web-based seminar trainings on topics such as market research, finances, building the team, and presenting. The CHEF consultant worked with the staff to further the development of a business plan for depression and the workplace during site visits in September and December. Staff also attended a 2-day workshop in Scottsdale in October.

We truly appreciate the opportunity to be involved in Project Connect and the Nonprofit Capacity Building Project!