

Affiliation: Northwest CMH Affiliation

Section 6: Assuring Opportunity for Needed Treatment for People in the Criminal Justice System

Challenges and Areas for Improvement

West Michigan Community Mental Health System identifies nine areas of challenge and opportunity for improvement. They include: signed memoranda of agreement of understanding with local jails including clarity of fiscal responsibility for services; development of a common vision of diversion for juvenile offenders; diversity of perspective among judges prosecutors and law enforcement in three counties; local resistance to pre-booking diversion; divergent perspectives on parental supervision adequacy; philosophical differences relative to the use of inpatient care; increased reliance on forensic evaluations and IST and NGRI status; increased demands on limited General Funds; and varying levels of knowledge regarding Co-occurring disorders.

Northern Lakes Community Mental Health identifies similar areas of challenge and opportunity that include: updating memoranda of understanding and roles and responsibilities with local law enforcement agencies, courts, prosecutors SA providers, the juvenile justice system and MDHS; need to develop mechanisms to obtain ongoing review and feedback from judges, MDHS, law enforcement, consumers, families and providers; need to increase focus on juvenile offenders, particularly those involved with MDHS and /or in foster care; need for community education, particularly with hospital emergency rooms relative to jail diversion; and the complexity of dealing with the diversity of perspectives of courts and law enforcement agencies across six counties.

Methods For Making Improvements

WCMCHS will continue work with Leadership Council to advance children's System of Care beginning June 2009 and ongoing. They will seek policy clarification on fiscal responsibility of jails. They will continue existing education with jails/judiciary re: cost benefits of pre-booking diversions beginning in June 2009 and will advocate for higher level policy incentive/directive to judicial and law enforcement partners to partner for pre-booking diversions.

NLCMH will continue their development of Systems of Care for children with SED and Children with DD according to the PPGs timelines and will begin updating MOUs in July with annual review thereafter. A mechanism for review and feedback will be developed and implemented on progress of collaboration efforts and feedback from judges, consumers, family members and other stakeholders will be developed by November 1, 2009. Stakeholder feedback and information regarding ongoing training and cross training efforts will be added to the semi-annual jail diversion report to the CMH Quality Improvement Committee, and informational materials relative to jail diversion and jail services will be reviewed updated and distributed by September 30, 2009.

The PIHP will continue to monitor jail diversion and jail services data in semi-annual report to the Quality Oversight Committee.

Methods to Measure Success

WCMHS and NLCMH will monitor progress on their QI plans for Assuring Opportunity for Needed Treatment for People in the Criminal Justice System via their local Quality Improvement Committees. Twice yearly jail diversion and jail services reports will be reviewed at the affiliations Quality Oversight Committee.