California Mental Health Planning Council

Accomplishments—2008-2010

California Mental Health Planning Council

California Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 5772(a)

Advocate for effective, quality mental health programs

Sponsored AB 2234 (Lowenthal) to create a separate target population definition for older adults in California statutes

California statutes have target population definitions to specify eligibility for mental health services for one of the main funding sources for mental health services. Older adults are combined with adults. For years, advocates have wanted to have separate target population definitions so that the unique needs of older adults can be met.

Took positions on various pieces of legislation and sent letters of support and opposition

Advocated for community integration for clients in Institutions of Mental Disease (IMDs)

IMDs are a sub-acute level of locked residential services. The Adult System of Care Committee is studying alternatives to IMDs and programs that counties have for transitioning clients from IMDs into the community.

Worked with National Rural Health Association for federal changes to Medicaid reimbursement policies and HRSA policies

Advocacy related to Marriage and Family therapists being eligible for reimbursement to provide behavioral health services in both primary care and behavioral health settings, especially in rural and geographically remote areas of the state. Advocacy with the Health Services Resources Administration (HSRA) included requesting that additional metal health occupations be included in loan repayment programs and that HRSA to allocate funds to workforce development efforts in behavioral health in the same way that they fund primary care.

WIC Section 5772(c)(1)

Reviewed and approved performance outcome measures

Developed performance indicators for evaluating the Mental Health Services Act and the public mental health system

WIC Section 5772(c)(2)

Review the performance of mental health programs based on performance outcome data and other reports

Mental Health Board (MHB) Workbook Project

MHBs are required to review and comment on their local performance data and report their analysis to the Planning Council. To facilitate uniform reporting and to provide technical assistance, the Planning Council developed a workbook along with a one-day training for MHBs on how to use data. The workbook consists of performance data on mental health disparities with a set of questions that must be answered about the data. The workbook provides background data about the indicators and data analysis. The Planning Council also has contracted to provide a one-day training on how to use data and the nature of continuous quality improvement. The session also includes time to specifically review the counties' data to get them started with the analysis.

Developed Prioritized Mental Health Performance Indicators for which the Department of Mental Health is generating both statewide and county data

Selected indicators using the Data Collection and Reporting System to generate data on individuals in Full Service Partnerships on Education/Employment, Housing, and Justice Involvement as well as indicators on county mental health system performance, including client perception of well-being, penetration rate, involuntary care, and number of new clients.

SAMHSA Block Grant Peer Reviews

Federal law requires that 5% of SAMHSA funded programs have peer reviews annually. Through a Memorandum of Understanding, the Department of Mental Health has delegated this responsibility to the Planning Council. To date, we have conducted two peer reviews. We send out a 6-person team consisting of a consumer, family member, professional/provider or consumer-related advocate, county mental health department employee, and Planning Council staff. Among the tools used to collect data are client and staff focus groups.

WIC Section 5772(c)(4)

Identify successful programs for recommendation and for consideration of replication in other areas

Planning Council Quarterly Meetings serve as a showcase for many model programs worthy of replication

WIC Section 5772(e)

Advise the Legislature, Department of Mental Health, and county boards on mental health issues and policies and priorities that the state should be pursuing in developing its mental health system

Published *California Mental Health Master Plan: A Vision for California (2003)*[1]
This plan included model systems of care for all the target populations as well as chapters on unmet need, cultural competence, and system accountability.

Published a paper on veterans mental health services advocating for expanded access to a variety of services for military service members, veterans, and their families

Published paper on expansion of juvenile justice mental health courts
Juvenile mental health courts aim to improve youth mental health and reduce recidivism through a specialized juvenile court process that identifies juvenile offenders with mental health problems and provides them with treatment and case management. A multi-disciplinary team of staff from County Probation, the County Department of Mental Health, the District Attorney's Office, and the Public Defender's Office decides which youth to refer to the juvenile mental health courts. The position paper describes all the juvenile justice mental health courts that have been implemented in the state along with outcome data and advocates for their expansion statewide.

Published a paper advocating the expansion of crisis residential facilities
Crisis residential facilities are voluntary alternatives to involuntary inpatient hospitalization. They are considered to have a better quality of life with at least equal outcomes in terms of rehospitalization. They are also very cost-effective compared to hospitalization.

Published a report on foster care that reviewed and monitored the implementation of counties' efforts to improve the provision and quality of mental health services to foster children

The Policy and System Development Committee published a Year-End Report, which included the following finding:

- Reviewed how counties are restructuring their service systems in the face of major budget reductions: County mental health departments have experienced major reductions in funding over the past several years, leading to staffing reductions and major program reductions. The committee has invited various county mental health programs to present on how they have used increased in Mental Health Services Act funding to restructure their mental health systems in light of concomitant reductions in other funding sources

[1] Work completed in 2003

WIC Section 5772(i)

In conjunction with other statewide and local mental health organizations, assist in the coordination of training and information to local mental health boards as needed to ensure that they can effectively carry out their duties

- **The Planning Council has contracted with the California Institute for Mental Health to provide one-day trainings to local mental health boards on continuous quality improvement processes and how to use data**

WIC Section 5821(a)

The Mental Health Planning Council shall advise the Department of Mental Health on education and training policy development and provide oversight for the department's education and training plan development

- **Reviewed and approved of local workforce and education plans**
  The MHSA allocated $200 million for local projects to increase the number of mental health professionals, to enhance training for existing staff, to increase consumer and family member employment, and to increase the diversity of the workforce. The Planning Council worked with the Department of Mental Health to review and approve these local plans.
- **Provide technical assistance to counties in the development and implementation of their workforce education and training plans**
- **Reviewed the implementation of local workforce education and training plans by having presentations at committee meetings from county mental health programs**
- **Reviewed implementation of statewide projects for workforce and education development**
  The state allocated $250 million to fund programs, such as financial incentives for psychiatric nurse practitioners, social workers, psychiatrists, and regional projects for collaboration among counties. The committee monitors the implementation of these projects through regular presentations at committee meetings.

WIC Section 5820(e)

Each five-year plan shall be reviewed and approved by the California Mental Health Planning Council

- **The CMHPC reviewed and approved the Five-Year Plan in April 2008**

Collaborated with Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC)

- Performance indicators developed for evaluating the Mental Health Services Act and the public mental health system used in the MHSOAC project for evaluating the performance of the Mental Health Services Act.