OKLAHOMA COLLABORATIVE MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE ABUSE REENTRY PROGRAMS

Dr. Janna Morgan Ph.D. Department of Corrections

Donna Bond LPC Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
In 2004, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) contracted with Mathematica Policy Research (MPR) to work with key stakeholders in Oklahoma to design, implement and evaluate a model program to ensure that individuals with serious mental illness were enrolled in Medicaid upon discharge from state mental and correctional institutions (SAMHSA, 2010).
In 2004, SAMHSA contracted with Mathematica Policy Research.

The executive leadership of Oklahoma Department of Corrections (ODOC), Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance abuse Services (ODMHSAS), the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (ODHHS), and the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (Oklahoma State Medicaid Agency) met to support the SAMHSA project.

Representatives of these agencies developed a program that would enable discharging offenders with serious mental illnesses (SMI) and who are eligible for federal benefits, to obtain the benefits upon release from prison.

An interagency workgroup served as the core group to design, develop and implement the project.
HIGH COST OF RECIDIVISM
In 2007, ODMHSAS and ODOC implemented the collaborative Mental Health Reentry Program (MHRP). Although the initial start up funding for the program was allocated through legislative funding, the ODMHSAS has funded this innovated program for just over 1 million per year since 2007.

Cost to incarcerate a seriously mentally ill (SMI) offender can be in excess of $27,000 annually versus $2,700 for MHRP.

One significant savings research determined; $776,000 per year savings in reduction of inpatient hospitalization days for program participants versus comparison group at approximately $400 per day.
PROGRAM COMPONENTS

* Targets seriously mentally ill offenders discharging from ODOC
* Designated facilities with MHUs, both male and female
* Services begin inside prisons, preferably 12 months from release date, assessments & referrals made to contracted community teams from community mental health centers
* Community based teams consisting of Peer Recovery Support Specialist (PRSS) and Certified Case Manager (CCM) arrange and conduct date for first outreach visit
PRISON BASED INITIATIVES

* ODMHSAS has 7 staff that are co-trained and orientated to work inside prison facilities full time
* Identification of target population, assessment and referral process to community teams in correctional facilities by Integrated Services Discharge Managers
* Co-occurring Therapists provide co-occurring groups in designated facilities with offenders diagnosed with co-occurring needs prior to release from prison
Oklahoma State Penitentiary
Four Teams in Oklahoma, two teams in Oklahoma County and 2 teams in Tulsa County (counties with highest number of convictions)

Teams provide intensive, integrated case management, available 24/7, services begin immediately upon release for participants

Each team has contract with budgets to include flex funds for basic living needs & housing assistance
STATE WIDE PROGRAM MEETINGS
COMMUNITY BASED INITIATIVES

- RICCT services begin with outreach inside ODOC’s prison facilities, goal is monthly for 4 to 6 months min
- ODOC Officers transport offenders directly to the RICCT agencies day of release for majority of discharges- Offenders leave prison with a minimum of 4 to 6 weeks of medication
- Same day intake with facility, transport to obtain food stamps, food, clothing, hygiene items, to housing location pre-arranged with RICCT
- Services may be daily initially with team members taking to court clerks, probation offices, social security administration, department of transportation, and other community based needs—*SAFETY IS ALWAYS #1 PRIORITY
Peer Recovery Support Specialists (PRSS) positions are crucial with target population.

PRSS provides client advocacy & Community Recovery Support Services to include individual and family services.

Many participants report the PRSS staff as leading contributor for maintaining program engagement.
PRSS TRAINING & QUALIFICATIONS

* **Training Requirements:**
  * 40 hour face-to-face training
  * High school diploma or college transcript
  * $25 non-refundable application free
  * Obtain National Provider Identification Number
  * Signed employment verification and Code of Ethics forms
  * 12 Continuing Educations Units obtained each year to maintain certification

* **Qualifications include:**
  * Demonstrated recovery from mental illness, substance abuse disorder or both
  * 18 years of age
  * Willing to disclose recovery story
  * Be employed, or volunteer with a behavioral health service provider or advocacy group
  * Agree to respect and observe the PRSS Code of Ethics
  * Pass an examination testing standards and competencies of peer role after 40 hour training
FUTURE IMPLICATIONS FOR PRSS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMS

- Supplemental trainings and specialty tracks in development for individuals who have lived experience with Department of Corrections systems
- Additional 1 day training after completing the initial PRSS core training
- Credential will be designated as PRSS-F
- Goal is to reduce recidivism by developing a PRSS workforce that has the knowledge and ability to better support people involved with the criminal justice system
FURTHER INFORMATION?

* Dr. Janna Morgan, Chief Mental Health Officer with the Oklahoma Department of Corrections
janna.morgan@doc.state.ok.us 405-962-6138

* Donna Bond, Manager of Correctional, Criminal Justice & Reentry Services with the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services dbond@odmhsas.org 918-302-4627