

___ACTION REQUIRED:

DATE OF MEETING: 2/21/08

PREPARED BY: Sheri Whitt

DATE MATERIAL PREPARED: 1/31/08

AGENDA ITEM: Innovation Guidelines Development: Status

ENCLOSURES: • MHSOAC Innovation Resource Paper, dated 11/19/07

OTHER MATERIAL RELATED TO ITEM: Newly developed materials, if available, will be distributed at the meeting

ISSUE:

Possible discussion questions:

- Has there been proper resolution to the issue regarding Innovation funding as outlined below?
- Are adequate steps being taken to insure opportunities for stakeholder input are being maximized?
- Are the Commissioners satisfied with the level of information they are receiving regarding Innovation and do they have suggestions for other material they would like to receive?
- Are the recommendations of the MHSOAC’s Innovation Committee being respected and honored as the guidelines are being written and the process unfolds?

The MHSOAC’s Innovation Committee provided recommendations to the Department of Mental Health in the attached document, “MHSOAC Innovation Resource Paper.” Since then there have been several meetings attended by MHSOAC staff and DMH staff for the purpose of agreeing on an approach to draft the Innovation guidelines. *Please note that the contents of these guidelines will have a direct bearing on what kinds of questions can be included on the Commission’s review tool for County Innovation Plans. This review tool will form the basis for the Commission’s funding decisions in the area of Innovation.*

Some of the issues currently under discussion include the following:

- 1) 5% of Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) funding and 5% of Community Services and Supports (CSS) funding represents the funding source for Innovation funding. The MHSOAC’s Innovation Committee recommended that these two funding amounts be combined to create a separate Innovation fund not bound to PEI guidelines or CSS guidelines. This would allow for maximum flexibility on the part of the counties in funding all kinds of Innovation projects which may or may not have a specific PEI or CSS focus. The MHSOAC’s Innovation Committee presented strong evidence that this was in alignment with the intent of the MHSA and its language about Innovation. It was anticipated that Innovation guidelines would be developed separately from what was already in existence within PEI and CSS guidelines. While the DMH legal counsel seemed to agree it was legally possible to create a separate Innovation fund, there remains some question as to whether the Department intends to allow for a separate Innovation funding category.
- 2) In light of criticism received regarding the lack of opportunity for sufficient stakeholder input into the PEI guidelines as they were being developed, the DMH and MHSOAC staff have been talking about how to better involve all stakeholders all along the guidelines development process.

X INFORMATION

TAB SECTION: 5

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ISSUE: (Continued)

- 3) There has been agreement that a monthly update at the MHSOAC meetings about the progress in drafting Innovation guidelines with a concurrent opportunity for public comment represents an efficient way of being more inclusive of stakeholder input. In addition, the DMH will be hosting a stakeholder meeting to talk directly with stakeholders about what an ideal stakeholder process might look like. MHSOAC staff have been and continue to be involved in these discussions.