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***OLDER ADULT PERFORMANCE OUTCOME PILOT  
COMMITTEE MEETING SYNOPSIS  
February 26, 2001***

- Jim Higgins, Department of Mental Health (DMH), led introductions and reviewed the agenda (*Attachment 1*). Representatives from the following counties were present: Astrid Beigel (Los Angeles County), Victor Contreras (Sacramento County), and Sharon Lopez (Shasta County). Chester Cochran represented consumers, John Brunges represented the California Mental Health Planning Council (CMHPC), and Karen Purvis and Traci Fujita represented the DMH Research and Performance Outcome Development Unit (RPOD). John Brunges said that in the future either he or Ann Arneill-Py would represent the CMHPC at these meetings.

The following agenda items were discussed:

- County Reports. Pilot counties have all completed their second administration of the pilot instruments, and all pilot counties except Sonoma have completed their individual summary reports. Since John Brunges was new to the group, Jim Higgins summarized the background leading to the recommendations the committee is likely to make regarding the Older Adult Performance Outcome System (clinical input from a face sheet and client input from the MHSIP consumer satisfaction instrument). In response to methodological issues brought up by Astrid Beigel and for the benefit of John Brunges, Jim Higgins reviewed methodology issues related to a longitudinal approach (analysis of individuals over time preferred by the CMHPC) versus a cross-sectional or point-in-time approach (analysis of aggregate changes preferred by the research people). Jim suggested that the CMHPC bring in an outside panel of experts in methodology with experience in collecting performance outcome data to discuss the problem.
- Face Sheet Revisions. The committee again spent considerable time reviewing and revising the draft face sheet. Jim Higgins noted that since it has become possible to link our data files with the DMH Client Services Information (CSI) database, certain demographic data no longer need to be collected on the face sheet (e.g., gender, age, ethnicity, date of birth, living arrangement). Astrid suggested that the committee continue to collect this information during the pilot in case these clients are not yet in CSI. Traci Fujita will try to incorporate this information on a separate supplemental face sheet for use only during the pilot.

Some members objected to the number of quality of life questions on the face sheet and questioned whether the data received were worth the time required to collect them. Astrid noted that aggregate quality of life data tend not to discriminate over time. Jim pointed out that these questions are our only measure of certain required CMHPC domains. The group agreed to collect this quality of life information during the pilot, as well as the time required to collect it, and then discuss the issue again.

Jim warned that, after the next Older Adult Committee meeting, the face sheet could not be changed until pilot data are collected and the results analyzed.

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- Draft Instructions for Face Sheet. The committee then began review of a draft “Instructions” form which defined the terms used on the face sheet and provided certain administration instructions. Astrid wanted all administration instructions put on a separate form from the definitions. Other committee members wondered whether too many different forms might be confusing. RPOD agreed to develop two different versions of the instructions for the committee to review at their next meeting.
- Pilot. Once the face sheet has been finalized, a brief pilot will be conducted in a semi-structured way over a one or two-month period probably beginning in May. Volunteers, protocols, and training needs for the pilot will be discussed at the next meeting.
- In preparation for the next meeting, DMH will: (1) modify the face sheet, incorporating committee suggestions, (2) revise the form which defines terms, and (3) develop a simple set of protocols for administration of the face sheet pilot. These materials will be discussed at the next meeting of the Older Adult Performance Outcome Pilot committee scheduled for **Wednesday, March 28, 2001.**