

**OLDER ADULT PERFORMANCE OUTCOME PILOT
COMMITTEE MEETING SYNOPSIS
March 28, 2001**

The next meeting of the Older Adult Performance Outcome Pilot committee is scheduled for Tuesday, May 15, 2001. Please email Karen Purvis at kpurvis@dmhhq.state.ca.us to confirm your attendance.

- 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), Mary Flett (Santa Clara County), and Sharon Lopez (Shasta County). Chester Cochran represented consumers, Ann Arneill-Py represented the California Mental Health Planning Council (CMHPC), and Karen Purvis and Jim Higgins represented the DMH Research and Performance Outcome Development Unit (RPOD).

The following agenda items were discussed:

- County Reports. Pilot counties have all completed administration of the pilot instruments so there was little discussion of current administration difficulties. However, county reports are expected to increase again after the face sheet pilot gets underway. Committee members did note the prevalence of data entry errors for client identification number - making it important to gather redundant information to use as a cross check (e.g., birthdate). Jim Higgins said that in the future he will be building in more automated checks on the accuracy of records, perhaps matching client identification numbers with CSI files and sending mismatches back to the county. Mary Flett predicted that as information became more valuable to clinicians, accuracy would increase.
- Face Sheet Revisions. The committee again spent considerable time reviewing and revising the draft face sheet. Most of the changes were minor in nature since the items on this document had been reviewed twice previously.

Some members questioned whether they should continue using the MMSE as a screening device. Jim Higgins said that it was copyrighted and we only have permission to use it during the pilot (which probably includes the face sheet pilot). After that he thought we would use the approach taken in the children's program which is to require "some screening protocol". The clinician could use his or her professional judgment and/or an appropriate tool to do this screening. Jim did not want counties required to use a particular form (since they may have another favorite) and did not want them forced to pay for a copyrighted form. Ann Arneill-Py supported this view and noted that if a county does value a tool, they will find a way to pay for it.

Astrid Beigel again brought up her opposition to using the quality of life questions currently on the face sheet or, as an alternative, she wanted the number of questions reduced. Ann Arneill-Py said

she will bring up the issue of quality of life questions at the next CMHPC older adult committee meeting. The CMHPC will consider whether or not they need all questions included or just some of the scales. Jim pointed out that these questions are our only measure of certain required CMHPC domains. Participants will collect all quality of life questions during the pilot, as well as the time required to collect them, and then discuss the issue again.

Traci Fujita will incorporate the recommended changes before the next meeting. However, Jim warned that, after this next review, the face sheet would not be changed until pilot data are collected and the results analyzed.

- Draft Instructions for Face Sheet. The committee also reviewed the definitions and protocols documents and made a few improvements to the wording and formatting to coordinate with changes made on the face sheet. Once these documents and the face sheet have been finalized, a brief pilot will be conducted over a two-month period beginning in June.
- In preparation for the next meeting, DMH will: (1) modify the face sheet, incorporating committee suggestions, and (2) revise the forms that define the terms and 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 which was scheduled for: **Tuesday, May 15, 2001**.