

The Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) was allocated MHSA funds to address Co-Occurring Disorders (COD), persons with mental health disorders and alcohol and other drug (AOD) disorders. Funds also includes contractual services to evaluate a standardized COD screening tool, develop a two-quadrant COD model, and provide recommendations on barriers to services and improvements for statewide implementation.

There are many studies showing a significant portion of population groups with Co-Occurring Disorders (COD). These population groups are underserved because current systems only minimally address co-occurring mental health and AOD disorders. This research indicates that, for the vast majority of clients suffering from a mental health disorder and (AOD), services should be included in this continuum of care approach.

ADP activities reported to DMH for the period 7/1/08 – 12/31/08 are as follows:

a. Brief summary of the major activities performed during FY 08/09

- The 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the Dual Diagnosis Capability Addiction Treatment (DDCAT) pilot project was completed. The DDCAT is an assessment tool that assesses substance abuse and mental health providers' capability for COD Treatment. The providers conduct the DDCAT themselves and then ADP sends a psychiatric nurse to the facility to verify the providers' scores. Four providers volunteered for the pilot. Two scored COD Capable and two scored COD Enhanced, which is the highest score a provider can obtain.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the DDCAT pilot has begun. ADP will conduct training and verify eight perinatal providers DDCAT scores. The perinatal providers were chosen because they receive enhanced funding that should lead to COD treatment capability. By the end of 2009, ADP plans to conduct the DDCAT with 20 providers, which will determine if there is a statistically significant difference between the providers' scores and ADP's assessment.

ADP is participating in a national collaborative and is examining other states COD standards. The DDCAT is endorsed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Co-Occurring Joint Action Council (COJAC), which is the body that advises the ADP and DMH Directors on COD issues. The DDCAT is currently being used in 20 other states.

- ADP launched a Veterans Awareness Initiative that includes the development of a veterans' website that features a suicide prevention page, information on Post Traumatic Stress Disorders, Traumatic Brain Injury, women veterans' issues and where veterans may obtain services. ADP is collaborating with the California Department of Veteran Affairs and other stakeholders on this effort.

- Developed and disseminated the electronic circulars that inform the field on COD subject matters, including homelessness, trauma and youth. An upcoming edition will be on veterans. The COD E-Circular provides information on recent research, Evidence-Based Practices and upcoming trainings. It is designed to inform and educate the field on the needs of special populations with COD.
  - ADP is collaborating with the Department of Aging on substance abuse and depression screening among older adults. Staff are attending conferences, training and constituency meetings.
  - University of California San Francisco's Interagency Agreement is in place to validate the COJAC Screener. The screener is a simple tool with nine questions that may be used in a variety of settings, i.e., primary care, mental health and substance abuse providers, to screen for COD. It was developed by COJAC and if proves to be a valid tool, ADP will promote statewide.
  - Continued to provide support to the COJAC. Conducted teleconferences for the COJAC Housing, Funding, Youth, and Partnership committees. Arranged and hosted the calls, took the minutes, and maintained committee documents.
  - Staff continued the development and maintenance of COD and COJAC's websites, which includes links to resources, regular updating of information, announcements of developments and calendar items. By providing collaborative information these websites are a resource for counties, providers and stakeholders in developing, implementing and supporting integrated services.
  - Attended a variety of conferences, workshops, and trainings.
- b. Identify 2 or 3 activities or accomplishments that are considered highlights and help further the intent of the MHSA (e.g., achieving system change).
- The DDCAT Pilot Project
  - The validation of the COJAC Screening Tool
  - ADP's collaborative efforts with the California Department of Aging, the California Department of Veterans, the COJAC and other stakeholders.
- c. Identify activities being coordinated with the local mental health system.

None at this time