

County of Los Angeles - Department of Mental Health

Quality Improvement Work Plan Implementation Status Report

Dated 11/27/13

Prepared by: Program Support Bureau, Quality Improvement Division

NAME OF REPORT:

CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS (SUBSTANCE USE) (COD)

QI IMPLEMENTATION STATUS REPORT

The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission Report on Co-Occurring Disorders (2007) recommended that all programs funded by the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) be required to integrate mental health and substance abuse services for all clients who need them. Efforts by LAC-DMH to achieve COD integration goals have included many initiatives, including: establishing a Departmental COD Coordinator and a COD therapist to work with each Service Area; establish standards to initiate appropriate COD assessment and screening; extensive training on integrating COD treatment; proficiency in treating COD as a core competency for all clinical staff; COD forms and clinical documentation training sessions for new and existing employees; collaboration with Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Improvement (QI) involving COD clinical documentation; and STATS monitoring COD as a clinical indicator. The LACDMH Office of the Medical Director has established and posted on the DMH website for all providers: Parameters for Clinical Treatment of Individuals with Co-Occurring Substance Abuse; Parameters for the use of Psychoactive Medications in Individuals with Co-Occurring Substance Abuse; Parameters for the use of Medication Assisted Treatment for individuals with Co-occurring Substance Use Disorders.

The following is a summary of LAC-DMH initiatives for COD integration into the mental health service delivery system.

Summary of Findings

- COD Screening and Assessment training continues to be a component of DMH System wide trainings and has been incorporated into the Clinical Documentation Training provided by LAC-DMH during mandatory New Employee Orientation.
- LACDMH Executive Management Team (EMT) continues consistent monitoring of STATS reports on COD concordance for all directly operated providers.

- The Integrated Care Training Project is an ongoing collaboration between the LACDMH and UCLA-Integrated Substance Abuse Program (ISAP) to strengthen health systems by increasing the skills and knowledge of its workforce. The Integrated Care Training Project consists of training and technical assistance for providers on best practices for screening, treating, and referring clients for integrated mental health, substance use, and physical health care.
- UCLA/ISAP initiated a series of 2-hour trainings on Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) on July 31, 2013 with a pilot training for DMH Supervisors. A total of 19 additional trainings were held from September through November at DMH directly-operated clinics throughout Los Angeles County. Those participating totaled 629. Access to this training for the contracted clinics will soon be possible via an on-line version.
- The department established new Parameters for the use of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for individuals with Co-occurring Substance Use Disorders. The parameters are posted to the LACDMH website for use by both directly operated and contracted providers.
- Inclusion of COD awareness and skills development continues as part of ongoing DMH Peer Advocate Wellness Outreach Worker (WOW) trainings. Two training sessions were held on March 13 and October 31, 2013 providing training for 135 participants.
- UCLA ISAP provided 14, 2-hour training sessions on the effective use of the revised COD forms for children and adolescent treatment providers, from April 1 through June 30, 2013. A total of 216 people participated in these trainings.
- UCLA/ISAP provided two-day motivational interviewing academy trainings for LACDMH Programs. These intensive training experiences provided those in attendance the opportunity to gain proficiency in motivational interviewing upon completion. A total of 87 participated in the three, motivational interviewing academy two-day sessions.
- UCLA/ISAP in collaboration with LACDMH provided a "Health 101" DVD to be used for training of directly operated and contracted mental health providers. The DVD provides information on the primary health conditions associated with mental health and substance use disorders.

Action Planned

- 1) Continued cumulative reports by STATS to monitor the COD Performance Indicator for increased recording of dual diagnosis and concordance with primary diagnosis.

- 2) Continued contracted collaboration work with UCLA/ISAP for appropriate educational training and consultation.
- 3) Continue to increase the knowledge and awareness of all clinicians in the system regarding COD screening and assessment and how to effectively use peer advocates when appropriate.

Recommendations

- 1) Implement new procedures and training in documentation to ensure that clinically appropriate substance related treatment is provided secondarily to and as a support of the necessary mental health treatment.
- 2) Continue to work on the development of integrated trainings that will support and compliment integrated health care services that will be effective in an integrated health care setting and will meet the new needs of health care reform.

Sources of Data:

Office of the Medical Director
Quality Assurance Division