

MHSA Newsletter

Stanislaus County Behavioral Health & Recovery Services
A Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Service Organization

...a newsletter to share information about Stanislaus County's Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) programs with staff, consumers, stakeholders, other county departments and the community at large.



JOSIE'S PLACE SERVICE TEAM AND DROP-IN CENTER

By Carla Skiles, Josie's Place Drop-In Center Coordinator

Behind the old Harley-Davidson building walls, there is more than meets the eye. Josie's Place, located at 1208 9th Street in Modesto, includes three programs that represent various levels of services: Drop-In Center, Service Team, and TRAC (Telecare Recovery Access Center). The three programs are designed to meet the needs of young adult consumers in similar and unique ways. The consumer-driven Young Adult Advisory Council has been integral in the planning and implementation of services at Josie's Place.

Josie's Place Young Adult Drop-In Center is an MHSA General System Development program for young adults ages 16-25 with a mental illness. It is open to underserved youth who usually do not access traditional mental health systems from racially, ethnically, and culturally diverse communities. In addition to providing a multitude of activities, computers are available to help with school work, job searching, apartment hunting, etc. The Drop-In Center offers peer support groups, processing groups. Educational groups are offered to assist with independent living skills, academic pursuits, Social Security benefit application assistance, budgeting, job training and linkage, health care, and housing. The Drop-In Center provides a safe place for young adults to find and give support each day. Services are available from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Josie's Place Service Team, also an MHSA General System Development program, provides mental health services to young adults 18-25. The Team offers medication support, case management, life skills education and coaching, benefit assistance, housing support, workforce education, therapy, and help with social skills and coping skills. Transitional Age Youth Adults (TAYA) are welcome regardless of payor source. Services are available from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Josie's TRAC is an MHSA Full Service Partnership (FSP). Services include those services provided by the Josie's Place Service Team but on a more intensive level. Telecare staff offers intensive services to consumers 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

As level of need changes, young adults may move between levels to best accommodate their needs and receive the most appropriate individual supports. Young adults receiving services from Josie's Service Team or TRAC may also attend Drop-In Center activities. Staff in all three programs is culturally diverse and able to serve young adults from various cultural backgrounds in a variety of languages.

Josie's Place staff is proud of their collaborative efforts with community and agency partners. Staff regularly collaborates with BHRS Employment and Housing staff to enroll and provide services on-site. A collaborative effort with the Leaps and Bounds Program supports pregnant and parenting young adults. Staff consistently works to broaden the array of partnerships in order to provide the best services to consumers and the community.

You are invited to attend the TAY Partnership Group Meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. at Josie's Place. Please call 558-6444 to arrange a tour or drop by Josie's Place. We hope to see you!

MHSA Five Essential Elements:

- Community Collaboration
- Cultural Competence
- Client/Family-Driven Mental Health Systems
- Wellness for Recovery & Resilience
- Integrated Service Experiences

Inside this issue:

Josie's Place Service Team and Drop-In Center 1

MHSA Technological Needs Consumer & Family Empowerment Projects 2

Coming Soon!! New Initial Contact Form and State DCR System 3

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MHSA TECHNOLOGICAL NEEDS— CONSUMER AND FAMILY EMPOWERMENT PROJECTS

By Karen Hurley, MFT, MHSA Planning Coordinator

MHSA goals are intended to produce long term impacts with lasting benefits that move the mental health system towards embodying the values of wellness, recovery, resiliency, cultural competence, and community collaboration that supports integrated service experiences that are culturally and linguistically appropriate. Every part of MHSA needs to include these values.

Technology Needs Projects are required to address the following goals:

- 1) Consumer/family empowerment (to use technology) by providing tools for secure consumer and family access to health information within a wide variety of settings and
- 2) Modernization/transformation of an integrated information systems infrastructure.

With this in mind and with stakeholder involvement, local work has begun. In this brief article, I will describe three projects in development:

One centerpiece project will increase consumer/family member access to computing resources. Three key issues have been identified related to addressing this need: 1) access to computers and printers, 2) location of

equipment in secure settings, and 3) computer literacy training. The overall goal is to improve access to computers and help interested individuals find and store personal health and wellness information in a web-based location and/or personal data storage device. Access is connected to two other types of projects: Personal Health Record (PHR) and Other Online Information Resources.

Personal Health Record (PHR) is used by individuals for collecting, tracking, and sharing important information about their own health with others when needed (e.g., emergency room staff and other support people). It is a feature of a bigger project, the Electronic Health Record (EHR). An EHR is a Technological Needs Project that every California county must consider. In Stanislaus County, the EHR project has been in development for about a year. It is a complex process that involves every aspect of BHRS business and service operations. The lengthy vendor selection process is currently underway.

Online Information Resource Projects are typically web-based resources that contain useful information such as a directory of available services, a library of health-related information, simple access to legislation, mental health

organizational links, support and advocacy, and a user maintained personal health folder. Consistent with statewide MHSA implementation, Stanislaus County has established Network of Care as an information resource for agencies, our partners, and consumers. There is considerable work to be done to expand and support the use of this resource by even more individuals in Stanislaus County including non-English-speaking individuals. This has great potential to improve mental health service delivery.

BHRS Consumer and Family Member Steering Committee members are participating in a process to identify strengths, needs, and strategies for consumer/family member empowerment projects. A survey may be developed to assist in project development that addresses consumer/family member needs for access and training related to computing resources. No firm timeline for submission has been identified; however it is anticipated to be in early 2010. Prior to submission to the Department of Mental Health, all Technological Needs Projects will be subject to 30-day public review and comment.

If you would like more information, please contact khurley@stancounty.com, or call 525-6229.

COMING SOON!! NEW INITIAL CONTACT DATABASE AND DCR SYSTEM

By Brenda Kachel, DMS/PM

DMS is rolling out a new reporting process for GSD and O&E programs to enter contact data directly into the Initial Contact database! No more faxing, no more uncertainty of whether the Teleform system received the data, and no more duplicate entries! Programs will be able to see data entered and obtain a summary of records. The new system is going LIVE on October 1, 2009! Training is mandatory for all users. Training will be offered Sept. 29 and Sept. 30. (Users only need to attend one of these sessions.)

FSP programs will now be able to enter all PAF, KET, and Quarterly information directly into the State Data Collection and Reporting (DCR) system! In order to go live on December 1, 2009, all data issues must be resolved, transmitted to and accepted by the State. By going to the DCR system, Discrepancy and Wrong Age reports and most of the Clarification Report issues will be eliminated. The DCR system will prompt staff for Quarterlies and assist them in knowing when KETs are due. It will be a great process improvement for data collection and reporting. DMS will now have the ability to access, analyze and report real-time data!



If you have questions or suggestions regarding MHSA, please forward them by I.D. mail or e-mail to: Carol Jo

Hargreaves, BHRS / Administration, e-mail: chargrea@stancounty.com; or Karen Hurley, BHRS / Administration, e-mail: khurley@stancounty.com



The MHSA-CSS (Communicate, Share, and Support) Meeting is held the 4th Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Redwood Room, 800 Scenic Drive (unless otherwise notified).