

Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

Mental Health Services Act

Innovation Projects - Brief Descriptions

Innovation Funding is to be used to increase access to underserved groups; increase the quality of services, including better outcomes; promote interagency collaboration and increase access to services. Innovations are defined as novel, creative and/or ingenious mental health practices/approaches that are expected to contribute to learning in the mental health field and which are developed within communities through a process that is inclusive and representative, especially of unserved and underserved individuals and which are aligned with the General Standards identified in the Mental Health Services Act. The nine new Innovation Projects are listed below.

Project Name/Description	Agency
<p>“Arts for Freedom” will increase quality of services, including better outcomes for individuals of all ages. Arts for Freedom project has a mission to emphasize what people <i>can</i> do rather than what they <i>cannot</i> do through artistic expression and in support of artistic pursuits. Arts for Freedom is open to anyone from Stanislaus County who wants to participate and will provide opportunity for artists who live with mental illness to show the quality and depth of their art. This novel project will attract artist from diverse cultures and ethnic groups throughout Stanislaus County.</p> <p>Arts for Freedom will serve as a parallel social support system, a gateway to services and providers, will develop linkages for referral purposes and encourage use of community-based services whenever possible with a primary purpose of increasing quality of services and producing better outcomes for people. We need a project like this to increase access creative social supports and reduce stigma so that people can be identified as something other than their illness or diagnosis. The project will help support and accelerate county-wide transformation by connecting people receiving services to community-based supports.</p>	Peer Recovery Art Project
<p>“Beth and Joanna” proposes to increase quality of services including better outcomes in this project that pairs two individuals, a peer and a pal, for a six-month period of time. A Peer is someone who has mental illness and/or co-occurring substance issues, is isolated or needs support. A Pal is someone successful in recovery from their mental illness and/or co-occurring substance issues and has had some basic training in the mental health field such as the 10-week NAMI Peer-to-Peer course, or be attending our junior college and taking psycho-social rehabilitation courses. Pals will be recruited from among MJC Human Services students in the California Association of Social Rehabilitation Curriculum (CASRA) class (an MHS Workforce Education and Training Program).</p>	National Alliance for the Mental Illness (NAMI)

<p>Peer support is established as a successful adjunct to treatment and currently peer support is offered within behavioral health service programs. We need this program to demonstrate that peer support can be effective when offered parallel to treatment as a short term mentor/mentee relationship. The project will help support and accelerate county-wide transformation by connecting people receiving services to community-based supports.</p>	
<p>“Building Support Systems for Troubled Youth” will increase the quality of service and better outcomes for troubled youth through a family resource center-based mentoring program that integrates school, community, and family support systems to increase developmental assets in troubled youth ages 7-11 yrs a secondary focus will occur as promotion of interagency collaboration is addressed to achieve quality of service and better outcomes.</p> <p>The local community-based family resource center will take the lead and coordinate project activity, local school administrators will assist in identifying at-risk youth, share the use of school facilities and allow the use of teacher and/or administrator staff time to participate and local businesses partners who provide incentives and services to participating children and families. If proven effective, the project could be replicated in other communities in Stanislaus County.</p> <p>We need a project like this because families with pre-adolescent aged youth who are experiencing behavioral struggles are at risk for higher incidences of involvement in substance abuse and other health/mental health compromising risk behaviors but not necessarily able to access the traditional mental health service system – nor do they necessarily need it. Focus on building developmental assets early can avoid lifelong involvement with publicly funded systems. Traditional approaches by schools, mental health systems, and juvenile justice systems often take a focus toward forcing compliance, fixing the youth or family, or punishing the youth and fail to effectively address strengthening of developmental assets. Through this innovative collaboration, we will be able to test whether the combination of program elements produces the outcomes we want and need. The project will help support and accelerate county-wide transformation by addressing the learning priority of improving the well-being of children.</p>	<p>Center for Human Services</p>
<p>“Civility School Learning Project” is a new approach to increasing quality of services including better outcomes by creating ownership of “social culture” at Keyes Elementary and Spratling Middle School in students, classroom teachers, parents, and campus staff through campus-wide introduction of civility activities and strategies.</p> <p>Traditional models for providing school-based mental health support for students have a primary focus on “solving the problem” or “fixing the student” with much less focus on connecting the individual to his/her natural support community of peers, parents and personnel. Student behavioral problems are often the source and ongoing fuel for adversarial interactions that lack civility between parents, kids and school staff; academic and non-academic.</p>	<p>Center for Human Services</p>

<p>We need a project like this to contribute to practices that will have a positive impact on school campus culture, increase children’s developmental assets and strength-based social connections, engage parents and improve their constructive communication with the school personnel, increase teacher/school personnel productivity and develop positive partnerships on behalf of children, and the overall positivity of campus culture. The project will help support and accelerate county-wide transformation by addressing the learning priority of improving the well-being of children.</p>	
<p>“Connecting Youth to Community Supports” has a primary focus of increasing quality of services including better outcomes with secondary foci of promoting interagency collaboration and increasing access to services by offering youth who are currently receiving services at Sierra Vista Child and Family Services, the Drop in Center Family Resource Center (FRC), the North Modesto/Salida Family Resource Center, the Hughson Family Resource Center, and the Bridge access to community-based activities.</p> <p>Clinicians will assist youth in identifying activities they are curious about, interested in, and passionate about. The Community Support Specialist, based at FRC or other partner agency, would receive an activity referral and the Specialist would connect the youth to the desired activity and monitor participation in the activity. The clinician would monitor progress toward recovery including length of time and intensity of treatment.</p> <p>We need this project because it will assist mental health clinicians in thinking about how incorporating recovery and resiliency based approaches and de-stigmatizing activities into treatment, and connecting youth to community capacity building efforts already in development in Stanislaus County can reduce time of needed treatment and improve mental health outcomes. The project will help support and accelerate county-wide transformation by connecting people receiving services to community-based supports and help clinicians and other service providers become more able to link their clients to appropriate information and support for more holistic approaches to well-being.</p>	<p>Sierra Vista Child and Family Services</p>
<p>“Families in the Park” will increase access to underserved groups through an innovative approach in a culturally specific way of outreaching to young African-American families (predominantly mothers with pre-school children) who spend their days from April to November in West Modesto’s Mellis Park. Locating the project in the untypical and accessible location of the familiar neighborhood park is the first step in a culturally specific approach as the park is a place where families feel relaxed and comfortable.</p> <p>Mental health problems that contribute to lack of success in school (and later life) can be directly linked to lack of preparation for school, lack of effective parental support to attend school regularly and ongoing lack of internal resources (developmental assets) during the school years. It is anticipated that a significant number of parents/guardians and some children who will</p>	<p>Stanislaus Multi-Cultural Community Health Coalition West Modesto/King Kennedy Neighborhood Collaborative (WMKKNC)</p>

<p>participate in the project will be identified as having mental health/behavioral needs that contribute to this problem throughout the lifespan.</p> <p>Though there are a variety of recreational programs available through the Modesto Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department, these programs do not have an explicit goal to support mental health and do not provide any culturally specific outreach that seeks to create relationship with these young families that can lead to accessing assessment and a larger support system that is envisioned in this project. We need a project like this to learn culturally specific way of outreaching to young African-American families with pre-school children that are currently unserved and experience significant barriers to connecting with needed mental health services and increasing school readiness. The project will help support and accelerate county-wide transformation by improving the well-being of children</p>	
<p>“Integration Innovations” primary purpose is to increase the quality of services including better outcomes, for adult and older adult individuals of all cultures, and ethnicities who receive medical and psychiatric care in a primary care clinic setting.</p> <p>Stanislaus County needs a project like this to increase the quality of services offered to medically high-risk populations, including uninsured and underinsured individuals who have psychiatric illnesses and/or substance abuse issues co-occurring with chronic disease such as diabetes and hypertension. Access to peer supports is not currently included in primary care service delivery and has the potential to achieve better outcomes for overall well-being including health and mental health.</p> <p>The project will help support and accelerate county-wide transformation by connecting people receiving services to community-based supports and expanding treatment options for people struggling with both substance abuse and mental illness.</p>	<p>Health Services Agency</p>
<p>“Promoting Community Wellness through Nature and Neighborhood - Driven Therapies Project” is a new community-based approach that proposes to increase access to underserved groups through a combination of family-oriented outdoor programming and capacity for resident-led neighborhood improvements as “therapies” to address wellness issues in the Airport Neighborhood.</p> <p>Traditional approaches to addressing mental wellness issues tend to focus on treating the patient and the symptom without dealing with the physical conditions that often contribute to illness. Yet research tells us that environment, both where we live and how we perceive our surroundings, plays an important role in our overall health.</p> <p>We need a project like this to change the community’s attitude toward and connection with its natural and urban environments and the important role</p>	<p>Tuolumne River Trust</p>

<p>nature has in the overall increase in health and vitality of its residents. The project will help support and accelerate county-wide transformation by connecting people receiving services to community-based supports and improving the well-being of children.</p>	
<p>“Revolution Project” will promote interagency and community collaboration. Revolution Project seeks to engage adults who own businesses or have other civic leadership roles to learn what it takes to resolve existing conflicts with youth from nearby schools and build partnerships that transform mental health in the rural, underserved Westside community of Patterson. Traditional models for conflict resolution between youth and adults have a primary focus on “punishing the problem” or “fixing the youth problem” with little to no focus on increasing common ground through communication, increasing developmental assets of youth, and connecting youth to adults in leadership roles in support of their community. It is expected that increasing youths’ high expectations and opportunities for meaningful participation will lower the incidence of involvement in substance abuse and other health/mental health compromising risk behaviors as well as increase youths’ resilience, mental and emotional wellness, and academic success.</p> <p>This innovative project will attract the interest of youth and adults from diverse cultures and ethnic groups throughout Stanislaus County and create a new model for youth leadership in civic-minded roles as a way to improve the emotional and mental wellness of youth through strengthened relationships. The project will help support and accelerate county-wide transformation by improving the well-being of youth.</p>	<p>Center for Human Services</p>

Behavioral Health and Recovery Services has posted the Plan Update FY2011-12 that includes more detailed descriptions of these nine innovative projects. Go to www.stanislausmhsa.com