



CRISIS SOLUTIONS NORTH CAROLINA

AN INITIATIVE OF THE NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES – DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

INITIATIVE NEWS

March 31, 2014

Solutions Partners Wanted – Psychiatric Advance Directives Promotional Campaign

Conversation at our December Crisis Solutions Coalition, followed by Dr. Marvin Swartz’s presentation on psychiatric advance directives (PADs) at our February meeting, offered inspiration about how PADs can be effectively used to prevent and moderate crisis episodes and assist individuals in managing their own recovery. We also uncovered some barriers that have limited the widespread use of PADs.

The Division of MH/DD/SAS is committed to promoting the use of PADs. If you are enthusiastic about PADs, have ideas about how to train providers and/or peer support specialists to assist individuals in completing PADs, and/or have marketing skills, we need you! We will have one big meeting for creative brainstorming in April and use your individual talents and networks over the next 6 months. Our campaign will kick off in May – Mental Health Month. We will sustain full court press (yes, had to get in one basketball metaphor for March Madness) with educational, training, and awareness events for 6 months. Together we will celebrate our success at dramatically increasing the use of PADs across North Carolina in the first week of October – Mental Illness Awareness Week. The DMH/DD/SAS contact for this campaign is Leesa Galloway. Leesa.galloway@dhhs.nc.gov

“Why do people choose the emergency department for care during a crisis related to mental illness or substance use?” Solutions Partners Wanted, Part II

Many of us think we know the answer(s) to this question, but maybe we should just ask. This is another great idea put forth in an earlier Crisis Solutions Coalition meeting. DMH/DD/SAS staff and NAMI - NC (Deby Dihoff) have drafted a quick survey, but we need your help to make sure we gather the most useful information. We also need help to get the survey out to the users at the emergency departments. Do you have an idea, a strategy or an organizational network that could help? Art Eccleston will facilitate this process and wants to hear from you. Art.eccleston@dhhs.nc.gov

CJ LEADS Project Update

The NC Office of the Controller and the DMH/DD/SAS have partnered to provide the LME-MCOs with access to data from the Criminal Justice – Law Enforcement Automated Data Services (CJ LEADS) database. Daily extracts of CJ LEADS data will be sent to the LME-MCOs, enabling them to quickly identify their consumers who’ve been booked into a jail anywhere in the state. LME-MCOs can use the information to coordinate treatment and

release plans with the jails, and to divert consumers from jail to treatment in the community, when this is appropriate and poses little risk to public safety. The first “test run” of data has been sent and DMH/DD/SAS staff are currently finalizing the technical aspects for this process, and hope to be sharing these data with the LME-MCOs soon.

The Results Are In

More than 480 responses came in from our survey about how well the new Comprehensive Crisis Prevention and Intervention Plan is working for consumers and providers. The next step will be to re-convene staff from DMA and DMH/DD/SAS to review the survey results, make minor changes to the plan itself, and publish clarified instructions. Look for a joint Communication Bulletin within the next 30 days. Thanks to all who responded!

Advancing Innovative Technologies Action Plan

The Division of MH/DD/SAS in partnership with the NC Governor’s Institute on Alcohol Abuse hosted an “Innovative Technologies Summit” on March 12 highlighting and demonstrating technological advances in behavioral, cognitive and physical healthcare. Examples of innovative technology along the crisis intervention continuum include smartphone apps with GPS and interactive messaging and avatar programs that can offer brief intervention strategies. DHHS intends to be a leader in progressive technologies as a means to support prevention, treatment, and recovery. The department has asked DMH/DD/SAS to develop a plan detailing action steps and strategies to further advance Innovative Technologies. A published version of the plan will be available on the DMH/DD/SAS and DHHS website in the near future.