

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

GEOGRAPHIC INITIATIVES

The Comprehensive Community Care (CCC) process has advocated the need for service and managerial integration across an age and service continuum. Currently, the lack of managerial integration has the ability to prevent the development of seamless systems and programs, with particularly debilitating effects on the needs of transition age youth, the elderly and clients with dual diagnosis.

DMH has proposed that beginning on July 1st, 2000, three geographic initiatives located in the areas of Long Beach, Hollywood, and Santa Monica be commenced. These three areas will be organized to have a single administrative structure under which all programmatic efforts will be integrated. At least one of the three areas will provide services using the CCC recommended team model to enable clients to have easy access, through a uniform assessment, to substance abuse, vocational, housing, crisis response, homeless outreach, schools, social services, probation, and other supportive services. The other two programs will provide a setting for managerial restructuring initiatives.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the geographic initiatives are as follows:

1. To implement a single administrative structure in a defined geographic area to serve clients across an age and service continuum.
2. To utilize the family focused, client centered team model to provide comprehensive and integrated services in a focused geographic area.
3. To identify factors that need to be taken into consideration in transitioning clients and providing integrated services.
4. To evaluate the effectiveness of a single administrative structure in improving the accessibility and quality of services to our clients in a given geographic area.

The importance of these geographic initiatives cannot be underemphasized. It will provide the momentum required to actualize the change as well as the opportunity to fine tune the myriad of implementation necessities inherent in the redesign of the Department of Mental Health.

OUTCOMES

Based on the experience and outcomes of the geographic initiatives, the Department will be able to replicate the process throughout the County. The expected outcomes of the geographic initiatives include:

1. Increased accessibility and quality of services for clients and their families across the age continuum.
2. Assessment of the single administrative structure, resulting in recommendations for fine-tuning the model for managerial restructuring to be implemented throughout the County.
2. Assessment of the family focused, client centered team model, including recommendations for enhancing the model to meet client-family needs.
3. Identification of factors to be taken into consideration in developing a community-based service area plan.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUPS

The geographic initiatives will also be strengthened by the development of community based groups, Community Advisory Groups, which was strongly recommended by the CCC Structure Committee. The Community Advisory Groups, composed of stakeholders in the geographic areas of the initiatives, are intended to promote the following in conjunction with DMH: (1) an implementation plan, (2) advice about the efficiency of the effort, and (3) a forum for the community to ensure that the initiatives are responsive to their needs. A Community Advisory Group will be established in each of the geographic initiatives.