AGENDA

• Background and purpose/scope
• Process
• Discussion, Questions, Advice

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE/SCOPE

• Current situation
  • Significant effort is being devoted to multiple evaluation efforts
  • MHSOAC, CalMHSA, CMH, BORO, consumer surveys, URS reporting, 1115 Waiver Needs Assessment
  • Purposes and audiences vary
  • Mental health environment is unusually uncertain
  • Demise of DMH
  • Changes in county responsibilities - 1115 expanded eligibility, forensic realignment
  • Health reform
• Purpose and scope of master plan development
  • Assist MHSOAC determine its evaluation work plan over a reasonable planning horizon
  • Place this within a context of other evaluation efforts
BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE/SCOPE

• Why this is hard
  • Needs for information are different depending on who is using the information and for what purpose
  • Tension between evaluation for purposes of compliance, oversight, reporting to legislature, public, policy making, and quality improvement
  • Needs are different if viewed from perspective of state or county or provider or consumer/family member
  • Sophistication about evaluation and how to use information is mixed
  • There are questions about usefulness of existing evaluation efforts
    • Information already available is not always used
    • Multiple uncoordinated evaluation efforts underway
    • We don’t yet know how useful current evaluation efforts will be
  • Challenges abound about data systems
    • Are costly to maintain and support
    • Many question the accuracy of some of the data systems
    • We currently have multiple data sources covering different populations

• Why it is important to address these issues now
  • With the demise of DMH, essential to ensure the data systems are continued with adequate support
  • With fiscal pressures need to coordinate and plan evaluation efforts to ensure efficient use of resources
  • As more data becomes available have to increase our capacity to use the information productively
  • Principles for developing the plan
    • Guided by needs of the users
    • Simple and straightforward
    • Address issues of data reliability and quality
    • Be incremental

PROCESS

• Information gathering
  • Reports of evaluation activity already undertaken, in process, or planned
  • Interviews with key stakeholders
  • Summary review of data systems - populations included, data elements, estimates of accuracy, level of effort to maintain and support, potential usefulness
  • Evaluation activity in selected other states - how organized, how resourced, what kinds of information collected, how results are used
  • Evaluation activity in selected counties - how organized and resourced, what kinds of evaluation efforts, how data and information are used
  • Review of national evaluation requirements, trends, and opportunities
PROCESS

• Consideration of options – not yet clear on how best to frame these
  • Kinds of activities
    • Data system maintenance and support
    • Data analysis capacity
    • Data reporting capacity
    • Program evaluation opportunities ranging from controlled trials to qualitative exploration
  • Analysis of system transformation and adherence to MHSA values
  • Analysis of information for policy recommendations
  • Required oversight activities - EQRO, URL, consumer satisfaction
  • Performance indicators
  • Training and support for users of information
  • Who should be responsible for each
    • State and/or counties
    • If state, what role for MHSOAC and others
    • How much coordination of effort

• Plan
  • Draft
  • Review
  • Final
• Timeline – by end of calendar year

DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS/ADVICE

• What works, i.e. examples of evaluation information being used productively for either oversight or quality improvement or justifying mental health expenditures?
• How do we justify significant expenditures for evaluation in the face of a shrinking service system?
• Are we using productively information we already have about the mental health system?