LASSEN COUNTY
INNOVATION PLAN

May 28, 2015
Lassen County Profile

- Covers 4,541.18 square miles
  - 2013 US Census Bureau*
    Population Estimate: 32,212
    - African American: 8.5%
    - Asian/Pacific Islander: 2.0%
    - Euro American: 81.8%
    - Latino: 18.2%
    - Native American: 4.1%

* Does not add to 100% - Some categories overlap.
Lassen County Innovation Program

Lassen County is requesting $737,000.00 dollars for a four year Innovative Program titled:

Integration with Primary Care via Virtual Coordinated Care Team

- Lassen County proposes to develop a pilot to evaluate a new approach in their rural environment by integrating physical and behavioral healthcare for individuals with severe mental illness.

- Lassen County’s Innovative Program will adapt telecommunication tools to incorporate a Virtual Coordinated Care Team into community-based sites to facilitate communication among providers and to improve client outcomes. The team will consist of a nurse, case manager, counselor, therapist, psychiatrist, and consumer and family natural supports.

- The overall goal is to improve and ease access to care for individuals with serious and persistent mental illness and co-occurring physical and/or substance-uses disorders through warm linkage and care coordination.
Lassen County Innovation Program

- Team members will provide consultation and coordinate physical health and mental health care between systems by doing the following:
  - Develop protocols to integrate mental health services, alcohol and drug treatment, and physical healthcare to promote recovery and wellness;
  - Provide specialty consultation to clinic staff and assist in treatment planning;
  - Coordinate medications;
  - Act as referral agents, as needed;
  - Encourage broader interaction among an expanded treatment team.

- An important element of the Program is planned implementation of a Grand Care Electronic System in consumer’s homes to provide reminders about medications, interactive assessments, support to manage chronic conditions, and help people maintain wellness and recovery and get needed support and consultation without the need to travel.
Lassen County Innovation Program

The learning goal of this project is to assess whether and how a telecommunication-based coordinated care team improves physical and mental health outcomes for individuals with serious mental illness.

The evaluation will do the following:

- Assess both system and client outcomes.
- Example of system outcomes to be assessed include:
  - Care is planned, facilitated, coordinated, and accessible to clients;
  - Referral networks are established, updated, and utilized, with increases in cross-system referrals;
  - Services are timely, and culturally competent;
  - Team members increase their understanding of mental illness, substance abuse, and chronic physical issues;
  - Coordinated services by multiple providers are accessible to clients;
Lassen County Innovation Program

- Example of client level outcomes include:
  - Emergency room visits are reduced;
  - Clients’ need for and utilization of crisis care decreases;
  - Clients adhere to treatment plan and meet treatment goals;
  - Clients achieve mental health outcomes and recovery goals.

- Clients, family members, and providers will be involved in the design and implementation of the evaluation. There will be quarterly assessments conducted by the County, including tracking the number of clients served to ensure that sufficient clients are being followed by the Virtual Coordinated Care Team.
Lassen County Innovation Program

Commission staff have reviewed the Innovation Plan for consistency with the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) requirements and recommends approval.
Lassen County Innovation Program

Proposed Motion:

The MHSOAC approves Lassen County’s Innovation Project:

- Name: Integration with Primary Care via Virtual Coordinated Care Team
- Amount: $737,000
- Program Length: 4 Years