



INNOVATIVE PROJECT APPROVAL SUMMARY

Stanislaus County

Name of Innovative (INN) Project: Suicide Prevention Initiative

Total Requested for Project: \$627,957

Duration of Innovative Project: Three (3) Years

Review History

County Submitted Innovation (INN) Project: March 18, 2016

Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC or Commission) vote on INN Project: April 28, 2016.

Innovation Project Summary

Stanislaus County is seeking MHSOAC approval for the following INN Project: Suicide Prevention Initiative. The primary purpose of the Project is to increase the quality of mental health services, including better outcomes.

On September 1, 2015, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors, considered the County's Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Mental Health Services Act, (MHSA) Plan Update and identified concerns that statewide efforts to reduce suicides had not been effective in Stanislaus County. The Board at that time identified reducing suicide rates in the County as a funding priority. Subsequently, on October 23, 2015, the County's MHSA Representative Stakeholder Steering Committee (RSSC) met to consider an INN proposal to address suicide rate reductions in the County. The RSSC unanimously endorsed this proposal. This was the sole community meeting held with respect to this project proposal.

The proposal seeks to adapt to a mental health context a promising practice shown to be successful outside of mental health, the "collective impact" model of community engagement. Collective impact is a term for building a collaborative effort across multiple stakeholder organizations around a centralized infrastructure and dedicated staff. It has been employed in such diverse areas as coordination of environmental cleanup of a watershed in southeastern Virginia, addressing childhood obesity in multiple communities, and addressing student educational achievement in Cincinnati. Currently, the City of Palo Alto has begun to pursue a collective-impact informed approach to

fostering youth well-being generally and teen suicide prevention specifically in its Project Safety Net.

Stanislaus County's project strategy is to parallel the County's existing Focus on Prevention, a community-wide prevention effort, which seeks to involve community stakeholder groups in identifying and implementing changes in behaviors and practices that will improve outcomes in such domains as homelessness. The project would provide the county a structured forum to convene representatives of various agencies and community organizations to review data, inventory the effectiveness of current suicide prevention efforts, brainstorm ideas, and develop a strategic plan to bring about a reduction in the County's suicide rate. Direct provision of services by the County Behavioral Health Services Department is not a focus of the plan, although the County seeks to better coordinate local resources and interventions through the collaborative effort.

Evaluation

The estimated budget for evaluation is \$75,240, about 12 percent of the proposed project. Evaluation would be conducted at multiple levels, including measurement of the impact of the collaborative on participants' capacity to contribute to suicide awareness and prevention; measures of how well the collective group works together; and, ultimately, whether suicide rates decline overall and within priority demographic groups in the County in response to the collaborative efforts.