Overview of Duration of Untreated Mental Illness Study

Fred Molitor, Ph.D.

Agenda Item 6
December 14, 2016
Background

- Regulations for Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) programs and Innovation projects were developed by MHSOAC staff and took effect in October 2015.
- PEI reporting requirements include assessing and reporting on duration of untreated mental illness (DUMI).
- Procedures and definitions for assessing the dates associated with onset of mental illness and appropriate treatment vary and pertain mostly to psychosis.
Provider staff in San Diego reported during a site visit that there is confusion regarding the measurement of DUMI and provided examples of different methods to assess the time between first symptoms and treatment.

Counties and CBHDA have requested MHSOAC guidance and technical assistance for measuring DUMI.
Study Goals

- To understand how early psychosis programs define, measure, and record duration of untreated psychosis
- To explore how these processes can inform methods to assess DUMI with high reliability and validity
Methods

Expand Tara Niendam’s study of early psychosis programs by:

■ Conducting on-site interviews with counties with active programs
■ Interview protocol and tool developed with stakeholder involvement
Project Findings

Will be used to:

- Provide guidance to counties on method(s) for assessing DUMI
- Assist in the interpretation of county data to assess the impact of PEI programs