



Massachusetts Mental Health System Transformation Grant

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Presentation Overview

- Grant description
- Grant accomplishments
- Facilitators to implementation
- Challenges to implementation
- Future directions for CMS



GrantDescription

GrantDetails

- Partnership made up of the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health, the Office of Medicaid, mental health consumers and providers and the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Center for Health Policy and Research (CHPR) developed grant application
- Grant awarded in October 2004 and completed in September 2007
- CHPR partnered with the Transformation Center through a sub-contract to conduct grant activities



GrantMission

To develop the infrastructure needed to support and sustain effective recovery oriented and consumer-operated mental health services in Massachusetts

GrantGoals

1. Establish a formal network across the state between all mental health recovery-oriented activities that are consumer operated
2. Assess the gaps in recovery oriented and consumer-directed services throughout the state
3. Establish a state-level consumer-operated Transformation Center that will provide training and technical assistance to consumer-operated programs and traditional mental health providers statewide and impact state policy regarding mental health services.

Diverse Stakeholder Guidance and Support

- A multi-disciplinary group of stakeholders, the Transformation Committee (Transcom), was established to support grant's mission and goals
- Members include state agency representatives, peers, providers, advocates, CHPR, and Transformation Center board members
- Transcom members have met monthly since the grant's inception, and continue meeting today
- Several subcommittees formed over the years to work on concrete grant activities



Grant Accomplishments

Directory of Consumer Operated Programs and Activities

- A compilation of information from 47 consumer operated programs and activities statewide
- Regular Networking meetings for these programs and activities began in March 2006
- Directory has been distributed widely to consumers and providers
- A PDF version of the Directory is accessible online

Peer Specialist Training and Certification Program

- The Massachusetts training program has its roots from Georgia's peer specialist training curriculum
- Core Training Team: 5 Massachusetts peer leaders who were trained and certified in GA
- Seven trainings have been held to date with over 175 people trained and nearly 100 certified
- Development of training and first training funded by CMS Grant, DMH now funds all trainings

TransformationCenter

- A consumer operated organization that provides statewide technical assistance and training to consumers, providers, and other stakeholders on recovery and empowerment approaches and cultural change
- Activities focus on three areas:
 - Statewide Education and Training
 - Planning and Program Development
 - Policy Development and Statewide and National Advocacy
- Grant provided start-up funds and organization is now self-sustaining through state and other grant funds

Recovery Learning Communities (RLCs)

- Consumer-operated RLCs coordinate and provide peer support, education, advocacy and other regional peer-run activities
- 6 RLCs operate statewide with 1 in each DMH Area
- Grant did not directly fund/initiate these programs, however Transcom's leadership and guidance paved way for programs to be funded

Transcom Part of State Mental Health Planning Council

- Halfway through grant, Transcom became a formal subcommittee of the State's Mental Health Planning Council, which oversees block grant \$\$\$
- Transcom representatives keep Planning Council focused on recovery goals and integration of peer workers in system
- Goals related to training and employing peer specialists were included in most recent State Mental Health Plan

Culture of Respect Statement

- A small group of individuals from Transcom took the lead in developing a statement on why responsible disclosure of mental health experience within the mental health workforce can be valuable and should be supported.
- This statement endorses a system that views voluntary, personal disclosure within the context of helping relationships as a positive action that supports recovery.
- Organizations are being exposed to this statement and meaningful conversations are happening that are beginning to move the system in a positive direction.

Future Directions

- DMH continues to fund Peer Specialist Training classes and the Transformation Center
- CHPR completed an evaluation of three Recovery Learning Communities, and is currently evaluating the Peer Specialist Training
- Transcom providing leadership on how to support peers in the workforce, either as Peer specialists or peer support workers
- Transcom currently working on a tool to provide guidance to providers on implementing recovery oriented services

Facilitatorsto Implementation

- Partnerships between peers, providers, advocates, and state agency representatives increased support and buy-in
- Key decision makers from Department of Mental Health and Medicaid involved from the beginning stages of grant provided a sense of importance to work
- CHPR served as a neutral facilitator
- Resources were dedicated to planning and facilitating Transcom and subcommittee work
- CMS State Medicaid Director letter on peer supports addressed skepticism of state policy makers regarding CMS approving peer specialist services in state plans

Challenges to Implementation

- Challenging to sustain partnerships with key state agency decision makers due to their other responsibilities and leadership changes
- No established financing mechanism in state's Medicaid plan to support peer specialist services results in limited jobs for a growing group of certified peer specialists
- Cultural resistance in mental health system to integrating peer workers into workforce
- Infrastructure for supporting peer workers in its early stages but needing to respond to high expectations for supporting a growing workforce of peer support workers

Suggestions to CMS on Future Directions

- Fund additional grants, potentially demonstration grants, to integrate peer support services into Medicaid state plans (e.g., Demonstration grants for the Home and Community based services state plan option including peer support services)
- Continue providing federal guidance to states (akin to the State Medicaid Director letter) on options for integrating peer support services into state plans
- Encourage states to consider integrating peer support services in other systems transformation initiatives and grants