

2014-2017 DDS MHSA Project: *The Schreiber Center*

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) received Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds for Fiscal Years 2014-15 through 2016-17. Funding allows regional centers to develop and oversee innovative projects focusing on early intervention and treatment for children and adults.

In September 2014, Regional Center of the East Bay (RCEB) was awarded a three-year grant for \$333,900 from the DDS. RCEB has partnered with the Alameda County Public Health Department and Alegria Community Living to implement the grant. Resources & training materials will be posted here as available.

Purpose:

The purpose of this project is to support the success of a new, specialized mental health clinic in Alameda County, the Schreiber Center, which will provide psychiatric assessment, medication management and individual and group therapy to individuals with co-occurring developmental disabilities (DD) and severe mental illnesses.

This grant will support the outreach and engagement component of the Schreiber Center, and in so doing, will increase access to treatment by impacting stigma and discrimination that prevents the development of referral pathways for DD clients who may be experiencing severe mental health (MH) symptoms. Strong referral pathways and decreased stigma/discrimination will result in diversion from hospitals and jails as people find interventions that are timely and effective. Through a ground-breaking collaboration between Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services (BHCS), Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) and the Regional Center of the East Bay (RCEB), the Schreiber Center will open its doors in Fall 2014 and be the first service site of its kind in the county. To date, the collaborative has identified on-going resources and funding to provide the facilities, administrative and clinical staffing, and specialized, culturally responsive equipment for the Center.

Focus:

This project will replicate the Puente Clinic located in San Mateo County. This is a successful model providing mental health treatment to individuals with co-occurring developmental disabilities (DD) and severe mental illnesses. It was developed by Golden Gate Regional Center in collaboration with San Mateo County.

Goals:

The goal of this grant is to build capacity for the outreach and engagement component of the Schreiber Center, which is set up to serve people with developmental disabilities who experience severe mental health symptoms and may also be at risk for entering emergency rooms, psychiatric hospitals, and jails.

This project tests four strategies to increase outreach and engagement of clients with severe mental health issues and developmental disabilities.

Objectives

- 1) Increase efficiency of outreach and referral pathways by offering orientations and skill based training for staff working at referral sites to help them identify individuals in need of services and to ensure timely and successful referrals to the Center
- 2) Decrease provider stigma associated with engaging people with DD/MH at sites inside the behavioral health system that serve adults and also at selected community sites that serve clients at risk for hospitalization and jail by producing communication strategy and materials that provides accurate and compassionate information about DD and MH
- 3) Increase engagement in services offering an organizational intervention that employs the practices of trauma informed care to create a safe, collaborative, empowering environment at the multiagency provider site
- 4) Increase capacity, through a comprehensive training program for Schreiber Center clinicians to solidify state of the art competency in the assessment, diagnosis, treatment, linkage and discharge of clients with DD/MH.

Outcomes

- 1) Stigma and discrimination will be decreased at referral sites;
- 2) Outreach strategies will be identified that are used by RCEB, emergency services and other referral sites to divert people from hospitals and jails and successfully 'land' people with DD who may be experiencing severe mental health symptoms at the Schreiber Center
- 3) Staff will report confidence and competence in using knowledge and skills developed to engage clients and will comment on how engagement strategies are used throughout the assessment, diagnosis, referral (for moderate and low mental health issues), treatment, and discharge cycles for client receiving services at the Schreiber Center
- 4) Stigma and discrimination will be decreased at the multi-agency provider sites.