



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

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Alcohol, Drug & Mental Health Services Administration

300 North San Antonio Road, Bldg.3, Santa Barbara, CA 93110-1332
Telephone: (805) 681-5220 Facsimile: (805) 681-5262

Ann Detrick PhD
Director

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

May 8, 2008

RE: Older Adult Response and Recovery Services

Dear Santa Barbara County MHSA Stakeholders:

I am writing to inform you that the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services Administration (ADMHS) is planning to expand the age range of clients with severe mental illness to be served by the Older Adult Response and Recovery Services (OARRS) program. During the Community Services and Supports planning process for the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), a conceptual framework was designed for a program to serve older adults with severe mental illness. This program was named the Older Adult Response and Recovery Services (OARRS). The program was originally designed to provide services to 100 older adults (ages 60+). In order to meet challenges delaying program implementation, ADMHS proposed and received approval for adjustments to the program budgetary design. As ADMHS now begins implementation, we are seeking to further refine the design of this program to best meet the needs of underserved populations.

According to baseline data drawn in the fall of 2007, ADMHS was under-serving 394 adults (26-59 years) and 82 older adults (60+ years) who were determined to meet criteria for highest level of need. This represents a ratio of 5:1 adults to older adults who meet appropriateness for participation in Full Service Partnerships, which are a cornerstone of the Community Services and Supports mandated services. As a result of this finding, ADMHS seeks to broaden the target age group for these 100 Full Service Partnerships to equitably meet the highest level of need among our adult and older adult underserved populations. ADMHS is proposing to rename the program as the 'Adult and Older Adult Response and Recovery Services' (AOARRS) and to provide 75 Full Service Partnerships to clients in the 26 – 59 y/o age range (adults) and provide 25 Full Service Partnerships to clients in the older adult (60 +) age range. This proposed adjustment will allow ADMHS to preserve a focus on older adults while also meeting the much broader needs of other adults.

Marianne Garrity, R.N.
Deputy Director
Administration

Al Rodriguez
Assistant Director
Mental Health Programs

Edwin Feliciano, MD
Interim Medical Director
Assistant Director

Nancy Gottlieb M.F.T.
Interim Division Chief
Alcohol & Drug Programs

This proposed modification is being made available for public comment for a period of 30 days beginning on May 8 and concluding June 6, 2008. The public comment process includes a posting at www.admhs.org and placement on the agenda of the June 20, 2008 Mental Health Commission Meeting for anticipated discussion. ADMHS also encourages interested stakeholders to provide feedback during the public comment period by completing and returning the feedback form, which is also attached.

Please direct any comments or concerns to Cuco Rodriguez-Rodriguez, MHSA Program Manager, (805) 681-4505; cucorodriguez@co.santa-barbara.ca.us. Thank you for your continuing interest and participation in mental health programs in Santa Barbara County.

Sincerely,



Ann Detrick, Ph.D., Director

Attachment

Cc: James Rohde, Chair, Mental Health Commission
Mental Health Commissioners
Marianne Garrity, RN, Deputy Director
Al Rodriguez, Assistant Director
Cuco Rodriguez-Rodriguez, MHSA Program Manager