Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Policy Change Evaluation for the Transformation State Incentive Grant
FY 2006 - 2007

Methodology:

“Policy” is defined by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration as:

- Legislative/administrative document, directing an action or event at the State level. Including:
  - statutes/regulations
  - provider contracts
  - clinical practice guidelines
  - strategic plans
- Document directing financing changes such as:
  - appropriations
  - billing codes/reimbursement procedures
  - State’s Medicaid plan
  - innovative pooling of funds
- Organizational change such as:
  - interagency or intra-agency agreements
  - creation of a new reporting structure

A team of external and internal evaluators met with leadership, senior staff and mid-level managers from state agencies. Evaluators used a semi-structured interview protocol, reviewed statutes, administrative rules and annual reports describing policy changes and priorities.

Content analysis was performed on the collected information, which was developed into a concise matrix for each agency that matched each policy change to the required Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) measures.

207 Policy Changes Identified:

- 144 (70%) were general policy changes.
- 44 (21%) were financing policy changes.
- 19 (9%) were organizational changes reflecting new policy priorities within agencies.

Policy Change Mechanisms:

- About 40% of all policy changes were accomplished through internal policies/procedures and almost 60% of these changes involved collaborations.
- Nearly 10% of changes where achieved with appropriation increases, while almost 75% of these involved collaborations.

Elements Collected on Policy Changes:

- Effective Date
- Change Mechanism
- SAMHSA Goal
- GPRA Category
- President’s New Freedom Commission Goal
- Age Impacted
- Gender Impacted
- Race/Culture Impacted
- Impact

Participating Agencies:

- Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)
- Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY) – Child Advocacy Agency
- Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA)
- Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS)
- Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) – State Medicaid Authority
- Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS)
- Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH)
Hired discharge planners with mental health experience to develop specialized discharge plans and to assist with Medicaid enrollment.

Created Re-Entry Intensive Care Coordination Teams to facilitate community re-integration for discharged offenders with mental illness.

Increased funding for Drug Courts from $4 million to $20 million and the number of people who can be served from 1,500 to 4,000.

Obtained $1.25 million to fund 10 new Mental Health Courts, increasing the number of people who can be served from 75 to 325.

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For a full copy of this report please visit: http://www.okinnovationcenter.org/ and click on the “Oklahoma Policy Change Report” link.

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