

Santa Barbara County

Steering Committee on Behavioral Health System change

Steering Committee – Accomplishments

- ❖ **Assembled a large and diverse group of stakeholders** from different regions in the county, which has met monthly, to listen to and discuss reports from the Action Teams, ADMHS management, CBO Coalition, Change Agents and other individuals who are advancing plans to improve the behavioral health system in the County. The Steering Committee held its first meeting July 25, 2013;
- ❖ Chartered the following teams to work on system transformation: **Peer Action Team; Children’s System of Care Action Team; Crisis Action Team; Cultural Competence Action Team; and Forensic Action Team;**
- ❖ **Coordinated with the Zia Partners and TriWest consultants** on how system change can be systematically monitored and advanced;
- ❖ Defined and adopted, on Nov 21, 2013, a **Vision and Guiding Principles** for system change;
- ❖ Directed and supported the implementation of an **Access Survey Team** which has surveyed County behavioral health teams and clinics in the County and a number of CBOs, with a view to
 - analyzing how access to services can be improved;
 - providing a report to help develop a plan to implement ways to improve access to services for behavioral health care and recovery;
- ❖ Adopted an **Action Plan** format for the Action Teams to systematize their goals, outcomes and progress;
- ❖ Encouraged and directed the development of **Workgroups**, such as the one exploring better collaboration with faith-based communities to enable outreach to vulnerable individuals with mental health needs who may not otherwise be helped;
- ❖ Decided that the System of Care would be best described as the **System of Care and Recovery;**
- ❖ **Improved stakeholder participation** by enabling discussions about which decisions concerning system change need first to be vetted by the Steering Committee before being announced as operationally approved decisions;
- ❖ **Adopted the principle of access to services based on need** consistent with the new Vision and Guiding Principles;

Steering Committee - Areas for further development

- ❖ **Develop the capacity to participate in strategic planning**, rather than being a body that largely receives reports about planning done elsewhere in the system;
- ❖ **Develop a protocol for making decisions** when there are differences of opinion or conflict over implementing recommendations;
- ❖ **Direct and allocate needed resources to the Action Teams and Workgroups to make recommendations regarding changes in planning or policies** that are in the service of positive system change. Take action on these recommendations;
- ❖ **Ensure that decisions regarding change are consistent with the Vision and Guiding Principles** adopted to guide the process of transforming the behavioral health system into one with better access, improved services, and optimal outcomes.