Policy, Finance, and Practice Innovations in Children’s Behavioral Health

SAMHSA-Approved Small Group Action Meetings for System of Care Grantees 2015

Facilitated by:

THE TA NETWORK
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The Policy, Finance, and Practice Innovations in Children's Behavioral Health Small Group Action Meetings for System of Care Grantees are SAMHSA-approved and facilitated by The Technical Assistance Network. These meetings feature specific content areas designed to assist your efforts to improve services and systems as part of your Children’s Mental Health Initiative System of Care grant. This is a great opportunity participate in expert-led, peer-to-peer technical assistance that can help you create action plans for your community.

The information below provides a brief description of the small group action meetings, including their location, dates, and areas of focus. There is a limit on the number of participants per meeting, and please note that grantees are responsible for covering their own travel (these are approved meetings that count towards grant requirements and grant funds can be used). To apply please download an application at http://innovationmeetings.wix.com/meetings. One component of the application will be to identify the team you propose to participate in the meeting. Each description contains information on suggested participants to maximize the benefit of these meetings.
Strategies to Meet the Behavioral Health Needs of Diverse Populations: Building Culturally Responsive and Comprehensive Provider Networks and Interventions

**Facilitator:** Kathy Lazear, University of South Florida

**Location:** Wraparound Milwaukee site, Milwaukee, WI

**Date:** May 19-20, 2015

**Duration:** 1.5 days

**Maximum Number of Participants:** 50 participants (7-10 grantees/states)

**Participants:** Participants will include small teams that include state agency leaders who make policy and resource decisions, providers who can change practice, CLC coordinators, and leaders of family and youth organizations who are committed to promoting positive change.

**Description:** The purpose of this meeting is to identify effective and best practices as states and communities meet the challenges serving an increasingly diverse population. Participants attending this working meeting will learn how Wraparound Milwaukee has built, expanded, and maintained their diverse provider network for nearly 20 years. Through a series of presentations and interactive panels, participants will hear “lessons learned” from the Wraparound Milwaukee team and key provider agencies and get practical, hands-on advice on how to build, maintain, and evaluate the performance of a Provider Network, and deliver effective culturally responsive services.

Participants will have an opportunity to engage in discussions about how to operationalize best practices, including integrating these practices into plans, strategies for expansion and sustainability (including contracting practices), building workforce capacity, implementing quality improvement strategies, and meeting CLAS Standards. Additionally, participants will hear from a panel of providers who are serving ethnic minority youth and youth who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT), effectively focusing on practices that are evidence-based, culturally responsive, community-defined, and/or culturally adapted.

Wraparound Milwaukee is a nationally recognized system of care serving over 1,600 youth with serious emotional and behavioral health needs and their families annually. A cornerstone for the success of Wraparound Milwaukee has been by developing an array of over 70 services provided by an organized network of over 160 community agencies providing behavioral health and supportive services to families. Operating on a managed-care, fee-for-service platform, Wraparound Milwaukee has been able to highly individualize the provision of care through its expanded service array while also attracting culturally and ethnically diverse providers from the Milwaukee community to deliver those services.
**Growing the Youth and Parent-Peer Support Movement: Working Strategically to Support Implementation ("Peer Support")**

*Family/Parent Peer Track & Youth/Young Adult Peer Track*

**Facilitators:** Sandra Spencer, National Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health, and Johanna Bergan, Youth M.O.V.E National

**Location:** Durham, NC

**Dates:** July 30-31, 2015

**Duration:** 2 days

**Maximum Number of Participants:** 80 (20 grantees/states)—40 per Family/Parent Peer track and 40 per Youth/Young Adult Peer track.

**Participants:** Grantee teams should include leaders from the System of Care grant community, state Medicaid and/or behavioral health office, and organizations that are current or potential employers of family/parent or youth peer support. Team members must be designated decision-makers for the entity they represent. Each team must designate in their application their desire to participate in either the family/parent or youth/young adult track.

**Description:** This two-day event has been designed to maximize the power of peer learning. Participants will gather for an initial plenary session that will provide an overview of family/parent and youth/young adult peer support nationwide. Following this session, teams will move into intensive sessions based upon their population of focus (either family/parent or youth/young adult). Each team must designate in their application their desire to participate in either the family/parent or youth track. It is possible to send two teams that would attend each track separately.

Peer support is available to some degree through Medicaid in 32 states, although often in a limited fashion. Many states are exploring ways to expand peer support to include parents and/or youth and young adults. This working meeting will explore questions such as: Where is your state in this process? Has your state created new models for family/parent or youth/young adult peer support, or are they trying to serve families and youth through an already existing adult model? Has your state developed a curriculum and certification process for family/parent or youth/young adult peer support that highlights the unique characteristics of this emerging workforce?

This working meeting will be an intensive, interactive event that will bring national experts and communities/states together for in-depth dialogue and to create action plans based upon the developmental stage of the grantee community. Teams will be gathering from states that are in the initial, planning, and implementation phases of peer support development. Through the combination of national expertise and peer learning, all participants will develop a keen understanding of national trends and their implications for local implementation and sustainability.
Family-Run Organizations: A Key Strategy for Expanding Systems of Care ("Family-Run Organizations")

**Facilitator:** Jane Walker, Family Run Executive Director Leadership Association (FREDLA)

**Location:** Family Involvement Center, Phoenix, AZ

**Date:** April 16-17, 2015

**Duration:** 1.5 days

**Maximum Number of Participants:** 25 (5-10 grantees/states)

**Participants:** Teams will consist of family leaders and one or more System of Care (SOC) staff member, including: project directors, social marketers, cultural and linguistic competency specialists, and/or evaluators.

**Description:** This 1.5-day working meeting is presented by the Family Run Executive Director Leadership Association (FREDLA). The meeting will be interactive, and presenters will include experienced family leaders who have developed and sustained strong family organizations. A Report on the Study of Strategies for Expanding Systems of Care (Stroul & Friedman, 2011) identified strong family-run organizations as a key strategy to successfully expanding systems of care (SOC). Regardless of the stage of development in your SOC, this working meeting will provide ideas and resources to move you to the next stage in developing a strong family movement in your SOC. This meeting will explore:

- Financing strategies for family organizations;
- Sound business practices for family organizations
- Activities and services family organizations provide;
- Models and characteristics of family organizations;
- Improving the whole system through family organizations;
- Leading without authority, but with influence in family organizations; and
- Youth programs and family organizations.
How to Finance Sustainable Systems of Care

Facilitators: Sheila Pires, Human Service Collaborative; Suzanne Fields, The Institute for Innovation & Implementation; and Beth Stroul, Management and Training Innovations

Location: University of Maryland, Baltimore

Date: September 9-10, 2015

Duration: 2 days

Maximum Number of Participants: 55 (8-9 grantees/states)

Participants: Teams should include representatives from Medicaid (Medicaid behavioral health director and/or Medicaid managed care director); Child Welfare (director, fiscal director, IV-E waiver coordinator, other); Behavioral Health (child behavioral health director, fiscal director, SOC grant Principal Investigator and/or Project Director); Juvenile Justice (director, fiscal director); and statewide family organization (director or administrator).

Description: This meeting will be structured as a practical, how-to meeting for strategically selected teams from state and local grantees. Teams will explore a range of financing issues and strategies to integrate systems of care within larger delivery systems as a primary sustainability strategy. The goal for grantees is to develop their own tailored financing approaches to expand and sustain the principles and central operating components of systems of care statewide. Sessions will address such topics as:

- **How to analyze expenditures and utilization across systems** to identify:
  - disproportionalities and disparities based on region, race/ethnicity, gender, and aid category in Medicaid (TANF, foster care, SSI/disabled),
  - “poor outcome-high cost” spending,
  - opportunities for redirection and for maximizing federal match in Medicaid and Title IV-E,
  - gaps and strengths in financing for evidence-informed home- and community-based services, and
  - opportunities to create more coordinated financing approaches;

- **How to make effective and efficient use of Medicaid and health reform opportunities**, covering such areas as:
  - benefit design, waivers, and options important for children with behavioral health challenges,
  - enrollment strategies, and
  - quality efforts;

- **What to include within Medicaid managed care RFPs and contracts** to ensure appropriate customization for children with behavioral health challenges and children in child welfare:
  - evidence-informed service array,
  - provider network requirements,
  - quality processes informed by families and youth,
  - appropriate care coordination, including intensive care coordination using Wraparound,
  - use of family and youth peer support, and
  - process and outcome measures;
• Cross-agency financing of effective home- and community-based services, including integrating system of care and child welfare IV-E waiver initiatives, school-linked supports, use of TANF monies, and opportunities within juvenile justice systems, interagency compacts, and social impact bonds;

• Cross-agency financing of intensive care coordination using Wraparound, including integration within Medicaid, development of bundled and population case rates, and opportunities for redirection of existing dollars to improve cost and quality of care;

• Financing family-run and youth-run organizational capacity to support an array of activities; and

• Using financing and utilization data to establish the return on investment from systems of care.

*Logistical support for this meeting provided by the American Institutes for Research.
Improving the Appropriate Use of Psychotropic Medications in Public Systems Serving Children, Youth, and Young Adults ("Psychotropic Medication")*

**Facilitators:** Kamala Allen and Dayana Simons, Center for Health Care Strategies, and Sheila Pires, Human Service Collaborative

**Location:** University of Maryland, Baltimore

**Date:** September 11, 2015

**Duration:** 1 day

**Maximum Number of Participants:** 30 (5-6 grantees/states)

**Participants:** Teams should include system of care (SOC) grant leaders, Medicaid and behavioral health agency representatives, and child welfare agency representatives. Participants should demonstrate capacity and commitment to implementing improved cross-agency oversight and monitoring processes for the use of psychotropic medications.

**Description:** This small group meeting will provide participants with an opportunity to engage in specialized discussion on the design and implementation of effective oversight and monitoring programs for the prescription and use of psychotropic medication with children, youth, and young adults.

*This meeting will be connected to a broader learning community focused on psychotropic medication monitoring in children’s behavioral health. More details will be available soon on the webinar series included in this learning community.*

*Logistical support for this meeting provided by the American Institutes for Research.*
Leveraging Managed Care Approaches to Promote Children's Behavioral Health ("Managed Care")

**Facilitators**: Sheila Pires, Human Service Collaborative; Suzanne Fields, The Institute for Innovation & Implementation; and Dayana Simons, Center for Health Care Strategies

**Location**: University of Maryland, Baltimore

**Date**: July 21-22, 2015

**Duration**: 2 Days

**Maximum Number of Participants**: 40 (4-6 grantees/states)

**Participants**: Teams should include state purchasers of Medicaid managed care (i.e., state Medicaid and behavioral health agency representatives), other state child policy authorities (i.e., child welfare and/or juvenile justice), vendors that provide managed care functions to those authorities, family/youth organizations, and other client/patient leadership groups knowledgeable about and/or involved with the state’s Medicaid managed care initiatives that affect behavioral health care for children. *We encourage the inclusion of Medicaid managed care vendors on the team, but recognize some teams may elect to focus on procurement goals in which inclusion of those Medicaid vendors in all sessions may not be appropriate. If necessary, we can work with states to structure certain discussions to address any procurement-related concerns.*

**Description**: This two-day meeting will address managed care strategies to promote children’s behavioral health. Through a highly interactive process, participating states will work with experts and peers to produce action plans based on research and practice knowledge to promote children’s behavioral health through managed care strategies.

Teams will explore a range of managed care strategies and how to customize those strategies to address the needs of children with behavioral health challenges and children in child welfare.

Sessions will address in-depth such topics as what to include within Medicaid managed care RFPs and contracts to ensure appropriate customization for children; rate setting and risk adjustment; benefit design, including evidence-informed benefits; provider network requirements; customized care coordination and health integration approaches, including intensive care coordination using Wraparound; data dashboards and data sharing; quality and measurement; and youth and family engagement in practice.

*This meeting will be connected to a broader learning community focused on managed care in children’s behavioral health. More details will be available soon on the webinar series included in this learning community.*
The Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) 2015 Summer Training Event

**Location:** Wyndham Hotel and American Training Inc.* (our host) in Andover, MA (approximately 30 minutes from Boston Logan International Airport and 28 minutes from Manchester-Boston Regional Airport)

**Date:** August 5-7, 2015

**Duration:** 3 days

**Purpose of Training Event:** The purpose of this event is to support the use of best practices in residential and community services that result in sustained positive outcomes post-discharge for youth and families receiving residential interventions. Participants will include leaders and clinical staff of residential and community programs, policy makers, funders, advocates, families and youth.

**Desired Overall Outcome of the Training Event:** Attendees will leave the training event with practical strategies to improve policies and practices in their programs (residential and/or community) or agencies (oversight/funding).

Be on the lookout for information about this event in the next two months!

*Logistical support for this meeting provided by the American Institutes for Research.*