

# Louisiana



## **FY2017 TTI PROJECT:**

*Cross-System Training and Education for Behavioral Health Clinicians, Administrators and Direct-Support Professionals on Co-Occurring Developmental Disabilities and Mental Illness (DD and MI)*

### **KEY OUTCOMES:**

- Louisiana's Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) and Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) engaged in an initiative for workforce development, training, and certification of professionals and agencies across levels of care in the behavioral health system to infuse expertise in developmental disabilities across all levels in our behavioral health system for children and adolescents. The target population for the initiative was individuals with diagnoses of Intellectual Disability and/or Developmental Disabilities (IDD), co-occurring with a mental health disorder.
- Based upon existing research and evidence-based practices, Louisiana's Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) Clinical Services staff developed an intensive curriculum and technical assistance/mentoring program designed to lead to "Basic Training and Education" designation status for behavioral health providers.
- Modules 1-7 were required for all participating providers and involved a total of 18 training hours. Modules 8 and 9 were an additional 3 hours of training time each. Module 10 allotted an additional hour of training time. The prescriber training orientation was designed as a 6-hour training module. All modules involved not only didactic training and PowerPoint materials, but also tools designed to form the framework of the participating staff/clinician's professional "toolkit" for providing evidence-based assessment and treatment to individuals with IDD.
- Following completion of the foundational training, the program design called for an intensive technical assistance and mentoring process minimally designed to occur for a 6-month period of time post-training. The technical assistance and mentoring activities were provided for each provider. Activities included were based upon the provider's situation and needs and are adjusted throughout this phase as needed based upon growing volume of recipients with co-occurring IDD as well as growing competence in these activities.
- The TTI team outreached to the Medicaid department to collaborate on plans for sustainability after the grant period is complete. By agreement with the Medicaid department, outreach was provided to contract with Medicaid Managed Care Organizations. In meetings with the Behavioral Health Medical Directors of each MCO, they were informed about the initiative and provided information about how it is anticipated these trained providers would be of benefit to the MCOs. Next steps would include bringing in MCO care

management staff to participate in a Care Coordination training, so that these staff (along with staff from other entities who perform care coordination activities) are educated on TTI initiative-trained providers and how these and other services can be coordinated to develop a comprehensive plan of care for youth in the target population.

#### **Ongoing Project Activities After Grant Period:**

- Identification of core tools to evaluate assessment and treatment practices, provide guided TA/consultation, and determine completion of incentive #2 (Basic Training and Education Designation status). Dissemination/use of those tools has provided clear/concrete feedback and coaching to providers on their assessments/treatment plans/interventions
- Participating providers have engaged in TA/consultation sessions with the training and consultation team. For example, TA/consultation sessions have been completed for all behavioral health clinic sites for our participating Local Governing Entity (LGE), and we are anticipating completion and award of the second incentive and Basic Training and Education Designation for this agency. To reach this designation status, the agency and the State training team have completed the following 5 tasks: 1) completion of over 20 hours of individual case review and TA post didactic training; completion of feedback on assessment and treatment modifications; 2) confirmation of use of modifications and tools over the course of TA; 3) confirmation of routine linkage and coordination with the agency's DD services division ; 4) confirmation of ability to correctly identify needed consultation and able to complete outreach to the OCDD Resource Center for intense consultation as needed; and 5) voluntary completion of prescriber training along with establishment of group shared email for continued education and knowledge sharing (confirmation that all current prescribers employed/contracted by the agency have previous IDD and MH training and experience which is a unique plus for this agency).
- Recruitment activities have occurred of new PRTF to participate, with locations in 3 major areas of the state. Didactic training (phase 1) for this new provider has been completed, and consultation activities (phase 2) are slated to begin soon.

#### **Benefit of the 2017 TTI Project:**

- In summary, Louisiana used this grant to “seed” an approach in which we attempt to bring experts from our DD system together with hard-working providers in the behavioral health system, so as to “stretch” the capacity of behavioral health providers and reduce historical gaps in access to services for Louisiana youth. The concept behind this initiative had been under discussion among members of our team for several years; this grant, however, provided the opportunity to take action and move forward towards solutions.

*For more information, contact:*

Kristin Savicki, Ph.D.  
Psychologist/Child Clinical Systems Lead  
LDH: Office of Behavioral Health  
628 North 4th Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Baton Rouge LA 70821  
Phone:(225) 342-1070 ; Email: [Kristin.Savicki@la.gov](mailto:Kristin.Savicki@la.gov)