

Pennsylvania



FY2014 TTI PROJECT:

Creation of a self-directed care implementation manual, pilot the manual, provide technical assistance to other counties on implementation, and explore financial sustainability

KEY OUTCOMES:

Introduction. The Self-Directed Care Project in Pennsylvania is a joint activity of the Pennsylvania Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS), the Temple University Collaborative on Community Inclusion (Temple), the Delaware County Office of Behavioral Health, and the Mental Health Association of Southeastern PA (MHASP). These partners are working to enhance the Self-Directed Care program in Delaware County (outside of Philadelphia). With the resources provided by this TTI grant, OMHSAS has contracted with the state's leading consumer-based provider organization (MHASP) and a university consultant organization (Temple) to: a) develop and deliver a self-directed care manual to promote replication of the Delaware County self-directed care initiative in other counties across the Commonwealth; b) to provide technical assistance to other counties across the Commonwealth as they move forward with replication initiatives; c) to determine an avenue for financial sustainability statewide for these self-directed care initiatives; and d) participate in the Self Directed Care Collaborative initiatives funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJ).

A. The Temple University Comprehensive Manual/Toolkit

Temple University has been working with MHASP to define the purposes and content of the Comprehensive Manual/Toolkit. A new staff position has been created and an individual with extensive experience in the mental health field has been engaged to direct the development and writing of the Manual/Toolkit. The document will be developed based upon interviews with the SDC Operations Team, including staff from Temple University, Magellan Behavioral Health (the Managed Care Organization for Delaware County), and the Mental Health Association of Southeastern PA. The completed manual/toolkit will be completed and distributed statewide in the Summer of 2015.

B. Technical Assistance to the Counties

MHASP has begun reaching out to county mental health authorities throughout Pennsylvania to begin initial discussions with them with regard to replication of the self-directed care project. Activities are currently underway in Pennsylvania's two most populous counties – Allegheny (Pittsburgh) and Philadelphia – to assess initial interest, resources, and implications for county-wide policy development. A website remains in development.

C. Financial Sustainability

MHASP has contracted with consultants at Temple University's Institute on Disabilities to assist them in the exploration of avenues for financial sustainability. Initial discussions with the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Department of Public Welfare are underway as well. Both activities await results of the Fall 2014 governor's race, with regard to broad policy initiatives related to Medicare. Other avenues of support are underway as well, and Delaware County will continue to make all project materials available to users so long as TTI funds remain. MHASP is concurrently doing a financial analysis on a potential second stage of projects. This analysis will be done in the Summer of 2015 and distributed by the Fall of 2015. A webinar designed to promote replication of the project in other counties is scheduled for June, 2015.

D. The Self Directed Care Collaborative

Project staff – at OMHSAS, MHASP, Temple, and the County – have begun to participate in meetings of the RWJ-funded initiative on self-directed care, sharing information with other sites across the country, and exploring avenues for additional funding to support new data collection for the local activities of the project's ongoing activities in Delaware County.

CONCLUSION OF THE PROJECT

At the conclusion of this project in the Summer 2015, OMHSAS plans to continue the delivery of the County Self-Directed Care (SDC) Project in Delaware County, and begin the replication of the project in other interested counties, utilizing the Manual/Toolkit (which delineates the SDC approach used in Delaware County and will be used as a template in other counties). OMHSAS will also work with the SDC Operations team to establish fidelity measures for periodic fidelity assessments in Delaware County and to assist others in the adoption of a SDC approach, work with Temple University to identify the outcomes of the SDC program, including financial, community inclusion, and recovery-oriented goals. OMHSAS will also work with the SDC Operations team to further define service broker (Certified Peer Specialist) roles, responsibilities and supervision process, and establish a strategy and framework for financial support and sustainability for the future self-directed care initiatives. The project will continue to collaborate with the RWJ initiative.

NEXT STEPS AFTER THE PROJECT

The inclusive process of this project has led to several related, but separate developments:

1. Delaware County SDC has begun providing technical assistance to one other county in PA, and OMHSAS will assist in determining more counties.
2. OMHSAS has begun to reach out to other states to begin the discussion of sustainability as it relates to possible avenues for reimbursement of services for the self-directed care model. These efforts will continue.

For more information, contact:

Angie Roland

DGS Annex Complex, Beechmont Building, Room 239

Harrisburg, PA 17110

Phone: (717) 705-8280

Email: aroland@pa.gov

