

COCE SUBSTATE CASE PROFILE FOR WEB AUDIENCE

COCE Substate Case Profile: Foothills AIDS Project

Background

- Foothill AIDS Project (FAP) has been serving residents infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS in eastern Los Angeles County and San Bernardino County, California, since 1987.
- In total, the agency serves an area comprising 20,000 square miles in which there are more than 6,000 reported HIV/AIDS cases.
- FAP received grants from the California Endowment Foundation (\$358,242) and the Weingart Foundation (\$75,000) to implement an Integrated Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment program for their clients. This program is intended to assist clients with co-occurring disorders (COD) in accessing and following through on their medical and behavioral regimens and HIV case management in order to maximize their recovery, and to eventually adopt a community system of care for optimum recovery.

Technical Assistance Request

COCE will assist in the development and coordination of FAP and the external community's capacity to better serve HIV-positive clients with co-occurring disorders through provider education and system change strategies. TA is requested in the following areas:

- Identify and transfer evidence- and consensus-based practices to program development in order to improve the lives of persons with co-occurring mental and substance abuse disorders and HIV/AIDS;
- Advance a collaborative substance abuse, mental health, and primary health approach;
- Address all levels of client disorder severity; and
- Adapt solutions to the unique needs of each service recipient.

Technical Assistance Goals and Activities

- 1. Further develop the community stakeholders' group;**
 - Facilitate weekly to monthly conference calls with FAP leadership.
 - Identify internal and external stakeholders.
 - Facilitate stakeholder meetings with FAP leadership.
 - Facilitate FAP meeting with the San Bernadino County Public Health Coordinator.
 - Support FAP presentation on COD to San Bernadino County Planning Council.
 - Support FAP and LA County non-HIV provider/stakeholder meetings.
- 2. Develop an action plan and support completion of its action steps;**
 - Develop Action Plan
 - Support Lead Agents in Each Action Step
 - Monitor/Update Action Plan
- 3. Assess systems change strategies with stakeholders;**
 - Administer Organizational Assessment tool.

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- Identify interested stakeholders to support community systems change through media event to announce the FAP COD program.
- Support and assist with the introduction of the System of Care Model for stakeholders as initial step in establishing a system of care.
- Assess training needs of community providers.

4. Examine current FAP policies and procedures for COD application;

- Review FAP policies and procedures.
- Review Integrated Dual Disorders Treatment General Organizational Index to help identify areas for change.
- Assist with the creation of a Welcoming Policy & Procedure for COD program application
- Review COD screening and assessment tools.
- Create a COD Policies and Procedures Guide.

5. Examine FAP and community training needs;

- Identify staff competencies and training needs.
- Establish on-site training content and logistics.
- Create job descriptions for Licensed Psychologist and Clinical Coach with COD experience requirement.
- Review and update Community Resource List.
- Support FAP in establishing Communities Advocating for Emergency AIDS Relief Coalition (CAEAR) Foundation Support for curriculum development, procedures, recruitment, retention, engagement, and other topics on HIV and COD.

6. Provide follow-up support as needed in a manner to be determined.

Direct Outcomes: Changes in Practice

- An integrated system of care with stakeholders
- Off-site demonstration training with a COD education group for a behavioral health organization
- Ongoing process of COD integration in FAP's policies and procedures

Indirect Outcomes: From Changed Practice

- Solicited and secured funds with foundations and the county
- Hired two lead staff with COD experience
- "Clients are telling other clients about the FAP program!" states Maritza Tona, Executive Director. "We had excellent responses from the clients who then told other clients about the program. I think that's the best promotion—provide good services [and] the clients will tell other clients about it."
- Enhanced existing leadership within communities and serves as a model for a comprehensive integrated program and system of care