

**DHCS Behavioral Health Forum
Coordinated and Useful Data Collection, Utilization and
Evaluation of Outcomes**

Data Forum - Charter

Background and Purpose of the Behavioral Health Forum:

The Behavioral Health Forum provides key stakeholders, and other interested parties, with updates regarding critical policy and programmatic issues impacting public mental health and substance use disorder services (MHSUDS). The Behavioral Health Forum will provide stakeholders with an opportunity to learn about the status of more than 100 program and policy issues identified in the DHCS Business Plan, as well as from other sources, such as the *California Mental Health and Substance Use System Needs Assessment and Service Plan*, which have been organized into a grid format and assigned to four Forums (Strengthen Specialty Mental Health and Drug Medi-Cal County Programs and Delivery Systems; Coordinated and Integrated Systems of Care for MHSUDS and Medical Care; Coordinated and Useful Data Collection, Utilization, and Evaluation of Outcomes; and Simplified and Cost Effective Fiscal Models). Each of these forums will provide DHCS with a venue for updating stakeholders on identified priority areas. These forums will also give stakeholders across the state and interested parties an opportunity to provide input on these priorities. Stakeholder participation will vary depending on the particular topic being addressed by that forum. If appropriate, DHCS will convene workgroups of key stakeholders and subject matter experts to develop recommendations related to specific program and policy issues.

Data Forum

The Data Forum will specifically address key areas related to improving and coordinating the systems and infrastructure necessary to strengthen data quality, as well as the utilization and evaluation of data for improved program performance and service-recipient outcomes.

Objectives:

- Coordinate data collection efforts across service systems
- Streamline data reporting requirements, data systems, and data collection
- Identify appropriate program performance and service-recipient outcome measures to improve quality of care in the behavioral health system
- Ensure the development of a comprehensive, coordinated measurement system that supports evaluation, accountability and continuous quality improvement

FY 2014/2015 Priorities:

DHCS identified two priority areas for the Data Forum that address several key stakeholder issues in each area. These key issues may inform the discussions, recommendations and work plan related to the overarching priority area. Additional issues and requirements may also inform the priority areas work plans as determined in future stakeholder discussions.

➤ **Data Coordination**

- Implement a comprehensive, statewide data-driven system. (Grid Issue #3)
- What data is currently collected? What needs to continue to be collected; what can be eliminated? (Grid Issue #4)
- Strengthening and integrating data systems to assure better system wide data availability and information flow as well as user-friendly data systems and reporting. (Grid Issue #5)
- Improve care and quality using health information technology. (Grid Issue #9)

➤ **Quality Improvement / Performance Outcome System**

- Create a coordinated method for data collection and evaluation of outcomes that helps to ensure excellence in care and improved outcomes for all recipients. This involves evaluating the specific critical performance and outcome measures DHCS is currently using (and those to be developed) in key MHSUDS areas to monitor performance, evaluate progress, inform decisions, drive actions and raise questions that may invite further analysis and investigation in order to improve care and quality using health information technology. (Grid Issue #2)
- Establish a central point for collection and analysis of Medi-Cal mental health and substance use service performance measurement and quality improvement issues. (Grid Issue #6)
- Develop a comprehensive system that supports evaluation, accountability, and quality improvement. Including but not limited to:
 - Developing plans to enhance overall credibility of MHSUD services through strong program performance accountability.
 - Support ongoing improvement in quality of care, from prevention to treatment and recovery;
 - Support performance-based evaluation of clients as well as population outcomes
 - Demonstrate accountability to all appropriate state and county entities, and stakeholders.
 - Address wellness, recovery, and resiliency; cultural and linguistic issues, including challenges related to threshold languages; underserved, un-served, and inappropriately served populations; and the need to focus on the entire life span (i.e., infants, children, youth, adults, older adults). (Grid Issue #18)

Forum Details:

Date	August 28, 2014
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