



Therapeutic Behavioral Services Accountability Structure Report to the Department of Mental Health

Purpose: The goal of the Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS) Accountability Structure is to identify and develop a statewide practice and performance improvement structure. This structure will include outcome and utilization measures and a continuous quality improvement process that will allow the California State Department of Mental Health (CDMH) to effectively ensure that TBS are accessible, effective, and sustained for the Emily Q class members as outlined in the Court-approved TBS Plan.

The accountability structure, to be implemented by CDMH, will be accomplished through annual reports submitted by the county Mental Health Plans (MHPs). This new report utilizes a quality improvement process based on principles and accountability activities that focus on practice and service coordination, rather than compliance and disallowances. The report is designed to increase Emily Q class access to appropriate TBS services. This approach requires an interagency review of relevant data in response to four questions, utilizing a standard report format.

—Nine Point Plan, Appendix C

Directions: Please provide a brief summary of the answers to the following four questions as discussed in your local learning conversation (both Level I and Level II counties). Per the Nine Point Plan, it is the Mental Health Director's responsibility to submit the completed form. Please save this form to your computer then submit, along with a list of attendees, to TBS@dmh.ca.gov.

County MHP: Butte County Behavioral Health

Date of Meeting: 9/29/09

MHP Contact (name, phone, e-mail): Paul Bugnacki, LCSW 530-879-3347,
pbugnacki@buttecounty.net

Was this a Stakeholder or Decision-Maker meeting? Decision Maker Meeting

1. Are the children and youth in the county who are Emily Q class members and who would benefit from TBS, getting TBS?

Probation Chief John Wardell provided an update on their issue with the California Youth Authority and the possibility of not utilizing them as they have in the past and the possible impact it may have on TBS utilization. Clarified with the Chief that TBS may be appropriate but it is a voluntary service and cannot be used for supervision purposes.

There was a discussion around former foster youth who have aged out of the system and how TBS could be utilized with this population. TBS Member class was defined. It was suggested that Independent Living Services of Northern California be invited to the Stakeholders meeting to be held next month.

Our county's Day Treatment Program is another source of possible referrals. Their staff has already been trained in what TBS is, who qualifies and how to access it.

DESS (CPS) Director Cathi Grams talked about the continued outreach to her CPS staff Social Workers and the addition of TBS to the menu of possible services offered to appropriate families who are involved in that system.

It was suggested that Catalyst Women's Advocates (Butte County's domestic violence organization) and The Esplanade House (transitional living and advocacy organization for struggling Butte County families) also be invited to the upcoming Stakeholders meeting.

2. Are the children and youth who get TBS experiencing the intended benefits?

The Directors at this meeting did not have direct knowledge of the TBS efficacy of those who are and have received the services. It was discussed how our county would track this. All were in agreement that the most logical would be to see if a placement was averted.

Judge Mosbarger reported that it was her experience with working with families in Family Court that TBS has been helpful in those families she worked with. She suggested that it was important that all CPS Social Workers be made aware of TBS services in our county on a continual basis.

3. What alternatives to TBS are being provided in the county?

Connecting Circles of Care.

The FACT Team in Juvenile Hall.

SOFT services that are provided once foster children return home to prevent re-entry into the foster care system. This service is provided by Butte County's Department of Behavioral Health (BCDBH) contractors Youth For Change (the same organization that provides our TBS program) and North Valley Catholic Social Services.

Hope Cottage/Courage To Commit. Another BCDBH organizational provider who is providing a hospital alternative for kids needing a higher level of care but aren't meeting full 5150 criteria.

Wrap Around/163 program offered by our organizational provider Youth For Change.

4. What can be done to improve the use of TBS and/or alternative behavioral support services in the county?

There was consensus among the group that the continued effort to inform organizational providers as well as county agency staff the public is crucial in the effort of increasing TBS utilization for qualified class members.

Additional Comments:

Past barriers to TBS access has been the cumbersome referral paperwork packet. In the past only BCDBH clinician were able to refer for TBS. This has changed to include our organizational provider clinicians who can now refer clients for TBS.

With regards to tracking outcome measures for TBS efficacy our Probation Chief suggested using the Probation tracking tool through Assessments.com.

Probation requested a Matrix of services be made available to their staff in order to facilitate linkage to appropriate resources for their population served.

TBS Decision Makers Meeting 9-29-09 attendees

- Paul Bugnacki, LCSW. BCDBH TBS Coordinator
- Micki Winebarger, TBS Coordinator for Youth For Change
- Lisa Cox, LMFT, BCDBH Assistant Director
- John Wardell, Butte County Probation Chief
- Cathi Grams, Director of Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services
- Dan Blair, Butte County Administration Representative
- Meegan Jessee, Butte County Administration Representative
- Marilyn Keeble, Assistant Superintendent of Butte County Office of Education
- Don McNelis, Superintendent of Butte County Office of Education
- Lee Wood, Administrator of Butte County Office of Education
- Lena Correa, LCSW, TBS Clinical Supervisor of Victor Community Support Services
- Tamara Mosbarger, Judge, Butte County Superior Court