Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)
August 4, 2011
Training Agenda

7:30 - 8:30 Registration, Breakfast Provided

8:30 – 9:15: Overview of PATH – Rachael Kenney, Deputy Project Director, PATH Technical Assistance Center & Ristyn Woolley, California State PATH Contact
The PATH Program — or Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness — was authorized by the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1990. PATH funds community based outreach, mental health and substance abuse services, case management, and limited housing services for people experiencing serious mental illnesses — including those with co-occurring substance use disorders — who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of becoming homeless.
But what is PATH really about? What does it look like in different communities? Why is outreach important? Why is data collection important? This session will provide a brief overview of the PATH project in order to orient providers in the goals of our one day Technical Assistance event.

9:15 – 10:15: PATH Data Collection – Rachael Kenney, Deputy Project Director, PATH Technical Assistance Center
Discuss the important connections between your homeless outreach efforts and the annual data you report to SAMHSA. We will cover data collection, the current PATH outcome measures, and the basics of PATH annual reporting. We will also provide an introduction to the SAMHSA initiative to integrate PATH into HMIS.

10:15 – 10:30 Break

10:30 – 11:30 HMIS and PATH – James McNemar, Data Specialist, PATH Technical Assistance Center
SAMHSA has mandated that all PATH providers migrate data entry into Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) in the next 3-5 years. This course will provide an overview of HMIS and the benefits of HMIS for PATH programs. In addition the course will provide information that will connect PATH providers directly to their local Continuum of Care HMIS Administrators.

11:30 – 12:30: SOAR Critical Components – Deborah Dennis, SOAR Technical Assistance Center
SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery) projects around the country address issues like jail and prison reentry, reimbursement of uncompensated care to hospitals, General Assistance
recoupment, coordinating veteran benefits, and access to housing and treatment – all by expediting applications for SSI/SSDI for people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. Learn how SOAR is implemented in prisons, jails, street outreach programs, and other settings from people who have done it.

**12:30 - 1:30 Lunch provided:** “What can your SPC do for you?” Questionnaire

**1:30 – 2:45**  
**Session A: Monitoring (for counties that provide direct service)** – Charley Bliss, Georgia State PATH Contact, Ristyn Woolley, California State PATH Contact, Kimberly Wimberly, California State PATH Fiscal Liaison  
Monitoring the performance of PATH providers is an important component of effective program management. Monitoring strategies include collecting and reviewing quarterly and annual reports, holding periodic meetings with PATH providers, reviewing client records and satisfaction surveys, and conducting site visits. Learn effective methods for monitoring county services in this workshop.

**Session B: Bridging a way into the VA** – Steven Samra, Recovery Specialist, Center for Social Innovation  
This session is geared primarily for non-VA service providers to offer general instructions and information to assist civilian community agencies in understanding and accessing Veterans Affairs services successfully.

**2:45 – 3:00 Break**

**3:00 – 4:15**  
**Session A: Monitoring (for counties that subcontract for service provision)** – Charley Bliss, Georgia State PATH Contact, Ristyn Woolley, California State PATH Contact, Kimberly Wimberly, California State PATH Fiscal Liaison  
Learn effective methods for monitoring community providers in this workshop. Monitoring strategies will be discussed include collecting and reviewing quarterly and annual reports, holding periodic meetings with PATH providers, reviewing client records and satisfaction surveys, and conducting site visits.

**Session B: Bridging a way into the VA** – Steven Samra, Recovery Specialist, Center for Social Innovation  
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**4:15 – 5:00 Closing and Next Steps**– Ristyn Woolley, California State PATH Contact & Charley Bliss, Georgia State PATH Contact, Kimberly Wimberly, California State PATH Fiscal Liaison  
We will review the needs expressed in the “What your SPC do for you?” questionnaire and discuss next steps for the California PATH program.