

County: **Placer County**

Date of TBS Meeting: **5-29-2009**

Type of Meeting: **Stakeholder**

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

There are a number of children in Placer County receiving TBS services, but of course, any number of additional children could benefit from this service. There are issues, however, of knowing who these children are if they do not present themselves for treatment, or if their parent are unaware of the service despite methods of informing the schools and community. In addition, children who may benefit from the service may not qualify for it. This is one of the reasons that Placer County has had a similar service in place for a number of years that is similar to TBS. Thus, many children in Placer County are receiving TBS-like services, which is described in more detail in #3 below.

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

In the past three years, a total of 35 clients have received TBS services in Placer County. Of these 35, only 11 have required out of home placement after receiving TBS services. We believe that the number of out of home placements would have been much higher had the clients not received the service, and as a result, that the clients who have received TBS services did experience the intended benefits.

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

Placer County offers a service to clients which is very similar to TBS. These services are provided by the Family Support Counselor (FSC) Team. Staff members from not only Mental Health, but also from Education, Probation, and the Child Welfare System can refer to the FSC Team to be assigned a counselor. When children are referred for an FSC, they are given one-on-one behavioral support services by a BA level staff. All staff who provide FSC services are supervised by a licensed clinician. Also, like TBS, the FSC worker is not the "case worker" assigned to the case, but is generally an ancillary service provided to the client who is being case managed by a Master's level staff person. The client is also typically receiving other types of mental health services. FSC services are typically short-term (3-6 months) and are provided in the community and in the client's home. Placer County has offered this service to it's clients for many years, and it has not been limited to Medi-Cal beneficiaries like TBS.

Wrap Around services are another alternative to TBS. Wrap Around services are intense, client-centered services which are provided to the entire family with the goal of keeping the client in the home.

Another alternative to TBS are the services that a client receives while

they are placed in Juvenile Hall. Placer County has a Social Worker who is assigned to Juvenile Hall to help facilitate the client's treatment, and to help them transition successfully back into the community.

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

Historically, community and educational forums such as the one held and described here have not been attended in large numbers by potential TBS recipients or their parents. This particular forum flyer was posted in county office reception areas, at public libraries and coffee shops, on the Placer County website, and sent repeatedly to our MHSA email distribution lists, our Managed Care Network of Providers, our Placer County Network of Community Providers, distributed to our Native Network and our Latino Leadership Council, etc. It was distributed in all these locations and venues in English and Spanish. Despite such efforts, a limited number of community members were present. As such, in order to continue to increase TBS services in the appropriate situations, we are aware that we should be offering them at even more points in our system of care, such as during the Placement Review Team (PRT) meeting. All cases that are being considered for placement must be brought to PRT for discussion and approval, so this might result in increased awareness and usage.

Also, information regarding TBS services can be brought to staff regularly, during Team Meetings and mandatory training, so staff are continually reminded to determine if clients on their caseloads fit the criteria for TBS services.

Additional Comments:

At this meeting, county program staff and the community TBS provider presented information for the general audience about TBS in a power point presentation. In addition, brochures explaining the services and eligibility were distributed and questions answered. A facilitated discussion about what TBS is, how we could be doing more of it, whether everyone who qualifies for it gets it, etc. was held.