This is the second edition of HHSA-BHS Research Bulletin, a publication produced by the Performance Improvement Team, part of the Quality Improvement (QI) Unit at County of San Diego Behavioral Health Services (SDCBHS).

The mission of the Research Bulletin is to raise awareness of the research that is being conducted at the SDCBHS, and in addition, to facilitate communication and collaboration among researchers and providers working with San Diego’s behavioral health system.

Feel free to contact BHS QI if:

- You have any questions about behavioral health research being conducted in San Diego,
- You need to submit a study for approval to work with County or County-contracted behavioral health facilities, or
- You would like for your research to be featured in a future publication.

Thanks for reading!

In The Spotlight:

Mental Health Services Data Analysis and Performance Monitoring

Todd Gilmer, Ph.D., of UC San Diego’s Health Services Research Center (HSRC) submitted his proposal in July 2007 to analyze mental health data from the San Diego County system. Dr. Gilmer has authored several papers using these data, sharing his findings about healthcare delivery so that others can benefit from it.

Among those papers:


This paper studied chronically homeless adults with serious mental illness and compared those who are full-service partnership (FSP) clients from those who receive public mental health services. Quality of life was greater among FSP clients than among homeless clients receiving services in outpatient programs. Participation in an FSP was associated with increased use of outpatient services and housing, and decreased use of inpatient, emergency, and justice system services. According to Dr. Gilmer’s article, reductions in these services offset 82% of the costs of the full-service partnerships.

Need to Submit a Research Study Proposal?

Contact: BHSResearch@sdcounty.ca.gov
Your study should be submitted before the 30th of the month to be reviewed at the next month’s meeting.
Behavioral Health Services Updates

In April 2014 we welcomed Dr. David Naimark, M.D., who has stepped in to serve as Interim Chair of the SDCBHS Research Committee while Dr. Krelstein is occupied with other responsibilities as Clinical Director of Behavioral Health Services.

New Publications

The principal investigator is Dr. Lisa T. Eyler of UCSD.

New Studies

“Evaluating Adverse Events in a Global Smoking Cessation Study” was approved in February by the Research Committee. The principal investigator is Robert Anthenelli, M.D., of UCSD’s Pacific Treatment and Research Center. This study will evaluate the safety and effectiveness of three FDA-approved medications for smoking cessation, when compared to a placebo, in helping individuals who have been diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder to quit smoking. While these medications (Zyban, Chantix, and nicotine replacement patch) have been studied extensively, investigating their effectiveness and safety in individuals with a psychiatric diagnosis is a new area of study that has the potential to benefit many smokers who want to quit.

“Pilot Evaluation and Augmentation of the Janssen Healthcare Innovation Care4Today Mental Health Solutions Platform” was approved in April by the Research Committee. The principal investigator is Michael Plopper, M.D., of Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital. This study will evaluate the impact of an educational program on healthcare resource utilization of individuals with serious mental illness. This Care4Today program seeks to empower individuals with mental illness to become more active participants in their recovery through education, technology tools, and wellness activities.

Closed Studies

Researchers for the following studies have submitted final reports to the Research Committee, indicating they will no longer be recruiting participants from County-operated or County-contracted facilities:

- Motivational Enhancement for Engagement in Therapy (MEET) Project
- Skills Training and Empowerment Program (STEP)
- Exploring Validity of a Dissociative Subtype for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Effects of Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training and Stimulated Auditory Hallucinations (SAH) on Self-Efficacy, Empathy, Attitudes, and Stigma Toward Severe Mental Illness
- The SAGE Study – Successful Aging Evaluation
Open Behavioral Health Services Studies

- Cognitive Functions in Korsakoff Patients
- Developing Culturally Effective Services for Children (AKA by NIMH as: “Developing Culturally Responsive Child Interventions”)
- Predictors and Mechanisms of Conversion to Psychosis
- Gating and Inhibition in Schizophrenia
- Cognitive Consensus in Cross-Cultural Competence
- Mental Health Services Data Analysis and Performance Monitoring
- Relationship between Depression and Cardiovascular Risk Factors among Latino Patients at a Community Clinic
- Promoting Parent Participatory Engagement in Youth Mental Health Services
- Comparative Effectiveness of Comprehensive Care for Adults with SMI
- A Cross Sectional and Longitudinal Functional MRI Study of Adolescent Depression
- Effectiveness and Implementation of a Mental Health Intervention for ASD
- PEARLS Fidelity Study
- Trends in Heroin Treatment Admissions by Age and Route of Administration, San Diego County, CA 2006-2011
- Master Protocol for Outpatient Psychiatric Services Database
- Predictive Biomarkers of Response to Targeted Cognitive Training in Schizophrenia
- Medication Safety and Contraceptive Counseling for Reproductive Aged Women with Psychiatric Conditions (MSRP Study)
- Combined Oxytocin and CBSST for Social Dysfunction in People with Schizophrenia
- Perspectives of Individuals with Mental Illness on the Usefulness of WRAP Strategies on Employment Success
- (ACISIR) Advanced Center for Innovation in Services and Intervention Research formally titled (CCROPP) and “Psychosis and Antipsychotics in Later Life”
- Public Mental Health Service Costs and Utilization Among Age, Ethnic, and Diagnostic Groups in San Diego County
- A Qualitative Assessment of Need for Health Services Among Older Adults in San Diego County
- SALUDABLE (the My Health intervention in Spanish)
- Capacity to Consent to Research on Bipolar Disorder
- Salud Program Evaluation
- Structural and Functional Brain Aging in Bipolar Disorder
- Improving Informed Consent for Latinos with Schizophrenia
- Enhancing Assertive Community Treatment with CBT and SST for Schizophrenia
- Human Psychophysiologial Correlates of Sensorimotor Functioning
- Psychosis and Aging
- A Clinical Trial of Mobile Telephone-based Assessment and Intervention for Persons with Bipolar Disorder or Schizophrenia
- Evaluating Adverse Events in a Global Smoking Cessation Study
- Pilot Evaluation and Augmentation of the Janssen Healthcare Innovation Care4Today Mental Health Solutions Platform