



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
CAPITAL CENTER, 50 E. STATE STREET
PO BOX 727
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0727

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

JENNIFER VELEZ
Commissioner

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

LYNN A. KOVICH
Assistant Commissioner

February 8, 2013

Dear Colleagues:

Evidence-based practices specific to co-occurring mental health and substance abuse services offer promising outcomes to the people that we serve. However, these practices can prove challenging to implement. In order to support your efforts, the New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) invites licensed mental health provider agencies and licensed substance abuse treatment facilities from southern New Jersey to participate in the Co-Occurring Disorders Learning Community (COD-LC).

The goal of the COD-LC is to increase organizational capacity to address the complex needs of individuals with co-occurring disorders. Identified agencies will receive free, onsite program assessments along with training and consultation from our experienced Integrated Treatment team from DMHAS and UMDNJ-UBHC's Technical Assistance Center (TAC).

To offer you an opportunity to learn more, we invite you to a "COD-LC Kickoff" on Tuesday, February 26, 2013 from 10 am-12 pm at Burlington County Human Services, 795 Woodlane Road, Westampton, NJ. For guidelines for participation in the COD-LC, please see attached, "Co-Occurring Disorders Learning Community FY2013 Letter of Invitation."

Please note that applications are due Friday, March 8, 2013 and project status of all applicants will be determined by Friday, March 22, 2013. If you have any questions and/or wish to register for the above COD-LC Kickoff, please contact Linda Garvey from the TAC at garveyl1@umdnj.edu or at 732-235-9290. We very much look forward to your participation. Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Valerie Larosiliere, Assistant Director
Office of Treatment and Recovery Support

Enclosures

c: Steve Fishbein
Vicki Fresolone
Regional Offices

Co-Occurring Disorders Learning Community FY2013 Letter of Invitation

New Jersey's behavioral health provider agencies have identified many challenges in meeting the needs of persons with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. To assist with building the capacity to serve individuals with these issues, **mental health and substance abuse** agencies from southern New Jersey are being invited to participate in a Co-Occurring Disorders Learning Community (COD-LC). Our team, a collaboration between the New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) and the UMDNJ-UBHC Technical Assistance Center (TAC), aims to support your agency's efforts to implement evidence-based, **integrated treatment** practices for the benefit of the people that you serve.

In our role as partner with you, **our team (DMHAS & TAC)** will provide you with training, consultation, and support during the first year of your Integrated Treatment implementation. Specifically, we will:

1. *Complete baseline and follow-up assessments* of your program's Dual Diagnosis Capability* among seven identified dimensions. This will include both oral and written feedback.
2. *Provide support with interpreting the assessment results* to assist your team with developing a concrete Implementation Plan to enhance Integrated Treatment services.
3. *Conduct a series of free COD-LC events* (e.g. overview of Integrated Treatment, Screening, Assessment, Stage-Based Interventions & Planning) for your selected staff.
4. *Assign individual Technical Assistance (TA) staff to support your team* in developing & executing your Implementation Plan through tailored on-site consultation (e.g. at Steering Committee meetings and at case reviews as schedules permit).

Our team will closely collaborate with your staff to bolster strengths and address needs in the areas that *you prioritize* for improving the services you provide.

If your organization wishes to enhance Integrated Treatment in a specific program (e.g. case management, partial care, residential, outpatient, etc.), **please consider the following activities that would be expected of participating agencies:**

1. **Develop an Integrated Treatment Leadership Team** that will have agency-wide oversight and assess implementation progress. This Leadership Team frequently includes a senior administrator to allocate resources & address organizational challenges, the Director of Quality Improvement to identify & monitor outcomes, and the Implementation Leader to coordinate implementation activities.
2. **Develop an Integrated Treatment Steering Committee** that will develop or modify co-occurring policies, procedures, and/or practices for specific programs. Committee members include the Implementation Leader and typically represent persons who can best promote program change such as staff with decision-making authority (e.g. senior manager and program clinical supervisor), medical/nursing staff, direct care staff, consumers and family members.
3. **Participate in baseline and follow-up Dual Diagnosis Capability* assessments** to establish a baseline for future assessment, identify areas of strengths/needs, and provide information for outcome measures.
4. **Develop an Implementation Plan** to prioritize organizational and program efforts to enhance Dual Diagnosis Capability*.
5. **Participate actively in COD-LC events** (face-to-face meetings, conference calls or webinars) designed to help support progress & address challenges during the implementation process.
6. **Coordinate with TA staff concerning implementation activities** so TA staff can best provide continuous support for your Leadership Team and Steering Committee.

* <http://www.samhsa.gov/co-occurring/DDCAT/index.html> & <http://www.samhsa.gov/co-occurring/DDCMHT/index.html>

**Co-Occurring Disorders Learning Community
FY2013 Letter of Interest**

- Please Note: Application Deadline is Friday, March 8, 2013. We will determine the project status of all applicants by March 22, 2013. We expect to be able to involve between 12 & 14 agencies in this cohort.
- Please return completed form to Linda Garvey via fax at (732) 235-9292 or email at garveyl1@umdnj.edu.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at (732) 235-9290. Thank you!

Agency Name:		
Mailing Address:		
Name of Person completing this Application (primary contact):		
Email:	Phone:	Fax:

To help us process your application, please complete the following. You may use additional pages if needed.

1. *Describe the composition of the Leadership Team* (i.e. who will be included and their roles within your agency) that will be responsible for general oversight of the implementation process. These individuals will provide the resources, authority, and guidance necessary for the Steering Committee to proceed with their efforts.

[Note: Members of the Leadership Team can also be members of Steering Committee below.]

2. *Identify the members of your Steering Committee, including the Implementation Leader*, and how often you would meet. Steering Committee members will be responsible for implementing new practices and will be most directly involved with the Learning Community events. Include members' past experience with implementing programmatic changes and evidence-based or best practices.

3. *Describe the range of strategies you will use to strengthen and sustain implementation efforts*. Also include how your agency has integrated clinical supervision and performance improvement activities in previous implementation processes.