



Mental Health Services Act

Psychiatric Navigation Project

Project Summary

The purpose of this grant proposal is to do research and statistical analysis regarding the in-patient psychiatric hospitalization of person with developmental disabilities and a mental health diagnosis as well as to develop additional supports to enhance the service outcomes for these youth. Anticipated outcomes include reducing the length of hospitalization and the rate of recidivism.

A tool will be developed that will provide psychiatric hospital staff a summary of critical information about each youth who is hospitalized. This tool will be completed by a mental health navigator who will work closely with hospital and regional center staff at the time of admission and assistance with discharge planning. The navigator will also work closely with the hospital staff to identify any training issues and will assist in the coordination of the needed training. In addition, a second discharge planning kit will be developed and will be completed by the navigator. This discharge planning toolkit will identify critical community supports to enable the youth to successfully reenter the community from the hospital.

At the time of discharge the navigator will work with the regional center staff to assist in the youth's movement into the family home or residential home. The navigator will assist in the implementation of the discharge plan including facilitating referral and entry into recommended outpatient supports.

An additional component of this grant is to develop and provide training to local psychiatric hospital staff regarding this project, regional center services and the treatment of persons with developmental disabilities and a mental health diagnosis.