DOR Southern California Behavioral Health Roundtable (#2)
Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2019
Pacific Clinics Training Institute, Wilson Auditorium
2471 E. Walnut Street
Pasadena, CA 91107

Meeting Objective
Collectively determine goals and next steps to design, develop, and implement collaborative strategies and service models to assist individuals with behavioral health disabilities to decrease poverty, increase health stability, and achieve sustainable competitive integrated employment

I. Welcome and Opening

Big Picture Framework - Cindy Chu, Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)
Cindy welcomed the attendees to the second Behavioral Health Roundtable. She explained that the first roundtable was held in Northern California on February 6, 2019, and received a positive reception from DOR staff, partners and stakeholders in attendance. Based on DOR data, twenty-six percent of DOR consumers served last fiscal year were individuals with behavioral health disabilities, the largest population served by DOR. The objective of this roundtable is to come together and strategize how to collaboratively best support individuals with behavioral health disabilities.

II. Roundtable Introductions:

Lisa Harris, DOR
Participants introduced themselves to roundtable attendees.

See Attachment A – Southern CA Behavioral Health Roundtable Attendees List

III. CASRA Employment Initiative Concept Paper

Danny Marquez, California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies (CASRA)
The employment initiative concept paper provides a framework of strategies to support employment success. The CASRA Employment Initiative Concept Paper was developed to address poverty issues and improve quality of life for individuals with behavioral health disabilities. Attachments:

Attachment B – CASRA Employment Initiative Concept Paper
Attachment B (A) Accessible – CASRA Employment Initiative Concept Paper
Attachment C – Employment Support Quadrants
IV. Discussion of Existing Projects Underway:

The following three innovative service delivery models were introduced:

1. Mental Health America of Los Angeles (MHA-LA)

Gary Scannell, MHA-LA (formerly known as MHA - The Village) spoke about innovative activities conducted by MHA-LA, independent of the Cooperative program they also participate in with DOR and Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. MHA-LA provides employment essentials and paid work opportunities in a group setting. The work opportunities are used as an engagement tool to expose individuals to employment. MHA-LA also assists with Entrepreneurial Counseling to assist consumers in the development of their own business, as well as financial wellness training that is infused into the employment training process. In addition to providing these important vocational services, the program believes addressing homelessness should be one of the highest priorities.

2. Supported Employment Demonstration- Penny Lane

Jennifer Gorman from Penny Lane spoke about their participation in a six-year, national demonstration study funded by the Social Security Administration and administered by Westat, a national research institute.

See Attachments:
Attachment D – Supported Employment Demonstration (PPT)
Attachment D (A) Accessible – Supported Employment Demonstration
Attachment E – Making the Case for IPS Supported Employment
Attachment E (A) Accessible – Making the Case for IPS Supported Employment

3. Butte County Department of Behavioral Health

Lisa Harris and Diane Shinstock of DOR presented on the Butte County Department of Behavioral Health Program that operates an innovative program in a rural community that is not using IPS, but instead leverages Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds to provide foundational opportunities for individuals to work toward competitive integrated employment. Butte County also participates in a Cooperative Program with DOR to braid funding and services.
V. Discussion on collective service delivery/development:

Group Activity
Nancy Wentling and Diane Shinstock of DOR led the group in a brainstorming activity to identify strengths, challenges, and opportunities for creative thinking in moving forward with service delivery development.

Examples of thoughts and ideas from the group are the following:
- **Strengths:** Strong commitment to individuals with behavioral health disabilities; client centered approach; years of vocational rehabilitation experience; strong community involvement
- **Challenges/Pain Points:** Funding, lack of resources; behavioral health disabilities stigma; homelessness; training and enhanced collaboration needs
- **Opportunities/Creative Thinking:** Focus on continuum of services; mentorship opportunities; evaluate evidence-based practices

See Attachment F – Strengths, Pain Points, and Opportunities

VI. Next Steps Moving Forward

Next Steps and Final Thoughts:

- DOR will prepare meeting minutes, brainstorming activity results and distribute materials to participants, and on the DOR website.
- Attendees volunteered for the Behavioral Health Workgroup to assist in the realization of innovative and effective strategies to serve individuals with behavioral health disabilities that will lead to competitive integrated employment.

Cindy Chu from DOR emphasized the high engagement of all participants and led a discussion about how energy can be preserved moving forward.

Closing

Highlights from DOR Director Joe Xavier’s closing remarks:

- Employment is necessary to get out of poverty and improve quality of life.
- True systems alignment is necessary to achieve better employment outcomes of individuals with behavioral health disabilities. There is not a single system to meet all the needs.
- Through the CaPROMISE project, we have learned what strategies and practices work, what we need to do now is shift the culture to support implementation of these ideas.
• While there is funding for some of the needs most agencies do not have enough for all. Focus should be on how to best partner to maximize funding and benefits. One person, one goal, and one plan.
• DOR is changing our field level management to include Regional Directors. These Directors will focus on community and stakeholder engagement while focusing on systems alignment and shared resources to serve mutual consumers.
• It is necessary for local leaders to start engaging in a very different way to achieve whole person care for mutual consumers served.