

We want your ideas to Reduce Disparities in Marin County!

Idea Submission Instructions *Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)* Innovation FY2014-2017

A key element to Innovation is *learning* how to solve a challenging problem in our community. Our hard to solve problem in Marin County is engaging, and supporting diverse populations in order to reduce disparities.

You will need to include the following information in your one-page summary:

- Please include your name, phone number and email address.
- Description of your Innovation idea, including:
 - What **strategies, activities or services** would be conducted;
 - How your idea will **reduce disparities**;
 - What you think we will learn about reducing disparities.
- **Target population** you will reach (ethnicity, culture, age, gender/identity)?
- How is this idea “innovative” (refer to *Innovation Defined* document at www.marinhhs.org/mhsa)?

Submit your written idea no later than: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 by 5pm

You can U.S. Mail, email or drop off your idea to:

Kasey Clarke
MHSA Coordinator
Mental Health and Substance Use Services Division
20 N. San Pedro Road, Suite 2021
San Rafael, CA 94903
kclarke@marincounty.org - email



WELLNESS • RECOVERY • RESILIENCE

Definition of Reducing Disparities

In order to reduce disparities, we must improve our system of care to better support our diverse community. Diversity includes cultural, ethnicity, race, age, and/or gender/identity. Culturally competent systems enhance the ability to incorporate the cultures, beliefs, practices and languages of its diverse consumers into services (concept taken from the *Framework for Eliminating Cultural, Linguistic, Racial and Ethnic Behavioral Health Disparities: Guiding Principles*).

Some Barriers that Lead to, or Maintain, Disparities in our System of Care

- Traditional access to services is difficult due to language, lack of cultural understanding and/or lack of culturally competent services, especially where there is a high concentration of hard-to-serve/hard-to-reach populations.
- Inadequate outreach and engagement processes to hard-to-serve/hard-to-reach communities.
- Lack of culturally and linguistically appropriate treatment interventions and approaches.
- Lack of culturally and linguistically competent professionals and para-professional staff in our community and programs.
- Lack of cultural competency trainings for the workforce.
- Literatures and educational/informational tools are not linguistically appropriate

Population that MHSA Innovation Ideas Can Positively Impact

Un-served, Under-served, Inadequately and/or Inappropriately served, including:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • African Americans | • Rural / West Marin |
| • Asian/Pacific Islanders | • Institutionalized |
| • Latinos | • Incarcerated Adults |
| • Children (0-18) | • Homeless |
| • Transition Aged Youth (16-25) | • Middle School Students |
| • Adults (18-59) | • |
| • Older Adults (60+) | • |
| • Families | • |
| • U.S. Veterans | • |
| • LGBTQ | • |
| • Uninsured | • |
| • Low Income | • |
| • Undocumented | • |