

Title of Presentation: Transforming Mental Health Assessment Across Community Mental Health, State Hospitals, Division Of Youth Corrections, Child Welfare, And Medicaid In Colorado

Principal Presenter: Angela Green, Psy.D.
Organization: Colorado Division of Mental Health
Address: 3824 West Princeton Circle, Denver, CO 80236
E-mail: Angela.Green @state.co.us

Additional Presenter: Sally Langston, Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Accounting
Title: Data and Financial Analyst, also Consumer/Family Member
Organization: Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
Address: 1570 Grant Street, 3rd Floor, Denver, CO 80203
E-mail: Sally.Langston@state.co.us

Additional Presenter: Kathy Chase, BS in Criminal Justice
Title: RTC Administrator
Organization: Colorado Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Division
Address: 1575 Sherman Street, 2nd Floor, Denver, CO 80203
E-mail: Kathy.Chase@state.co.us

The Colorado Client Assessment Record (CCAR) was developed over 25 years ago. It has been required on all Admissions and Discharges to the Colorado Public Mental Health System since 1978. It has undergone several major revisions with the start of Colorado's Managed Care program and its use has broadened across systems (i.e., Division of Youth Corrections, Residential Treatment Centers, etc.).

CCAR has many uses. Initially it was used to count admissions for monitoring performance contracts between the State of Colorado and the mental health centers. Services data has been collected since 1995 and has been matched with CCARs at the client level for studies and reports. Single variable studies such as ethnicity, income, and diagnosis are commonly done. Trends have been examined for periods ranging from quarterly to several years. However, outcome has most often been studied.

The Cross-systems workgroup was assembled approximately six years ago to foster dialogue among the various state systems that use the CCAR with the Division of Mental Health as the facilitator. Among the systems represented were; Division of Youth Corrections, Child Welfare, state hospitals, community mental health centers, Health Care Policy and Finance, and the Division of Mental Health. The energy of this group

was revitalized within the last two years when the Division of Mental Health asked that member agencies of the group send one representative that was a program person and one that was a data person. The new constitution of the group brought renewed energy, perspective and focus to the mission of the group.

The Cross-systems workgroup undertook the enormous task of revising the CCAR to give it more utility and make it consistent with transformation and recovery efforts. The CCAR underwent revision in Spring 2005. Validity and reliability studies were conducted in 2004 on the current version, and information from these analyses informed the revision process that included collaboration across state systems that use the CCAR. Items were eliminated from the CCAR form due to utility, validity, and reliability concerns, as well as item utilization across systems. This resulted in a shortened version of the CCAR. Prior to this revision, the CCAR had been marketed as a clinical tool. It was decided in various meetings that the CCAR is really an outcomes measure and should not be used as a clinical assessment. However, information obtained from the CCAR could certainly inform and guide clinical intervention.

The FY2006 CCAR version brought many changes. Among some of the most drastic changes were the layout and the addition of a recovery section in order to be consistent with the goal of moving toward a recovery focused orientation. It was first pilot tested in June 2005. Information gathered from focus groups and inter-rater reliability testing has led to the new form; which will go into effect system-wide July 2006.

The purpose of our presentation will be to highlight the revision process, the collaboration between agencies to yield a common tool, disseminate results of our data analysis, and discuss the utilization of this instrument across the state of Colorado.