

Title of Presentation: Data Driven System Transformation

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This presentation will discuss approaches to analyzing data and presenting findings in a way that supports system transformation. These approaches will be demonstrated using recently produced SAMHSA National Outcome Measures (NOMs) from at least six states. The NOMs measures used in this presentation will include access to care, stable housing, and reduced criminal justice involvement.

The NOMs measures provide a unifying force that requires states to produce comparable measures in areas of concern that have been recognized as core measures of the performance of community based mental health and substance abuse program at least since the early days of deinstitutionalization. Used appropriately, these measures can provide the impetus for change and monitor change as it occurs. To achieve their full potential, these measure will need to be widely disseminated and their meaning will need to be widely discussed.

The data necessary to produce many of the NOMs has already been collected and is stored in electronic databases, awaiting analysis. Today, data are everywhere. Most of the factual information needed to guide the transformation process lives in administrative data bases maintained by state mental health and other state and federal agencies, including Medicaid agencies, criminal justice agencies, departments of education, and state and federal housing data bases. The data needs of mental health service system transformation need not and should not wait for the design and implementation of new systems for collecting and storing new data.

Administrative data bases are uniquely suited to informing the transformation process and monitoring the results of the transformation of our systems of care. Administrative data bases are comprehensive so they allow for comparisons to the general population. The cost of data collection has already been borne. Perhaps most important, administrative data bases provide an historical baseline that can be used understand the

magnitude and the direction of changes that occur as a result of the transformation process.

The challenge facing service systems researchers today is to maximize the utility of currently available data. This presentation will use statistical techniques designed to produce valid and reliable information while protecting the confidentiality of medical records (HIPAA) and the personal privacy of individuals. Findings will be presented in a way that is accessible to a broad community of learners. Findings will be discussed in relation to the process of system transformation and in relation to underlying values. The utility of data in the process of transformation requires that measures be provided for regions within states as well as for states as a whole. The utility of data in the process of transformation also requires that measures be provided for individuals in different age, gender, race/ethnic, and clinical categories. This presentation will provide current NOMs measures for regions within states and for members of diverse demographic and clinical subpopulations.