

Louisiana Co-Occurring State Incentive Grant: Report on the Statewide Utilization of the DDCAT Fidelity Index

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The concept of fidelity, or the degree to which a given practice or intervention adheres to accepted programmatic standards, has become an expected standard of program evaluation across many states involved in the Co-occurring State Incentive Grants (COSIG), including Louisiana. The Louisiana Co-Occurring Disorders project has been a statewide initiative with over 80 mental health and substance abuse programs in all 10 distinct geographic regions of the state tasked with transforming their current service systems to systems that meet the standards of being Co-Occurring Capable. To establish and define this standard, Louisiana adopted the Dual Diagnosis Capability in Addiction Treatment Index (DDCAT), the fidelity tool under development by Mark McGovern, PhD.

The first section of this presentation will provide an overview of the adoption process of the DDCAT for the Louisiana State Offices of Mental Health and Addictive Disorders. Included in this section will be a discussion of the co-adoption of the mental health version of the DDCAT engineered by Heather Gotham, PhD, the Missouri COSIG Program Evaluator. An abbreviated overview of the DDCAT index will be provided. The additional educational functions that the DDCAT Index provided to the Louisiana COSIG project will also be discussed, thus highlighting the overall utility of the DDCAT and the concept of fidelity for anchoring this large scale systems transformation project.

The second part of this presentation will provide an overview of the statewide utilization plan for the DDCAT Index in Louisiana. Given the statewide design of the Louisiana COSIG Project, we will offer a unique perspective on conducting large scale fidelity assessments. Our development of a companion manual to the DDCAT index will be detailed, highlighting the need to be as transparent and objective as possible given the multiplicity of stakeholders involved in this initiative. Inter rater reliability data for the DDCAT and the mental health counterpart to the DDCAT will also be discussed; in particular, a comparison of the use of internal and external raters will be discussed.

The third part of this presentation will provide a comprehensive look at a completed set of statewide DDCAT profiles across Louisiana. Qualitative data that examined the unique and varied pathways toward Dual Diagnosis Capability will be discussed in the light of the DDCAT profiles. Mechanisms to provide effective and useful feedback and reporting structures based on the DDCAT results will be offered. Regional differences in Dual Diagnosis Capability will be presented, and the unexpected impact of the 2005 hurricanes on the Dual Diagnosis Capability in impacted regions will be discussed.