

Working Effectively with Planning Groups

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National Association of Mental Health Planning and Advisory Councils

- Goal to promote planning and advisory council cooperation and effectiveness.
 1. To exchange information and develop, evaluate and communicate ideas about mental health planning;
 2. To consider advocacy positions concerning mental health legislation and regulations.



National Association of Mental Health Planning and Advisory Councils

Objectives:

- Retain and strengthen the federal statutory mandate for PACs.
- Coordinate peer-to-peer technical assistance among PACs.
- Become a focal point of collaborative efforts between PACs.
- Become a catalyst for organizational development of PACs.



Technical Assistance Goals

- Focus on collaboration, system change and cooperation.
- Emphasis on PACs understanding roles, responsibilities and possibilities.
- NAMHPAC/NTAC Orientation Kit and Promising Practices Handbook part of this effort.



Review of the federal mandate for planning councils

- planning
- advocacy
- monitoring



Who are planning councils

- mental health consumers
- family members
- parents,
- advocates
- providers
- state representatives



Emphasis on Data

- performance partnerships
- data infrastructure grants
- emphasis on evidence-based services
- new level of accountability from legislatures



Data should drive planning

- TQM diagram about the relationship of data to planning
- Improving the mental health system
- What data do they need
- Satisfaction, outcome data
- Access to atypical, etc.



Obstacles in the Block Grant

- resources inadequate for infrastructure
- annual plan review separated from implementation report
- guidance often late
- small amount of money trying to drive the system



State MH Authority challenges

- fragmented/incomplete data (MH/SA/Medicaid)
- inadequate infrastructure (databases, personnel, equipment)
- managed care (outcome)
- timeliness of data



Planning Council challenges

- mandate is huge
- all volunteers
- challenges are daunting (funding, providers, etc)



Making data more relevant

- keep it simple
- make it relevant
- work with the council to develop framework
- offer training to planning council
- make review of data related to the annual planning/review process



Promising Practices

- West Virginia (evaluations, monitoring directly related to planning and resource allocation)
- California



Other considerations

NAMHPAC/Bazelon Medicaid mental health planning initiative

- Include overview of the project, initial findings and discussion of recommendations

