

Workgroup/Special Project Updates **9/3/2009**

Integrated Care Initiative - Focus Group on Behavioral Health

- In mid July, Eight (8) members of the OMHSAS Older Adult Advisory Committee met with Steve Horner of the Office of Long Term Living. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss pros and cons of incorporating behavioral health services into the Integrated Care Initiative. Consensus of the focus group was that the ideal would be to integrate both behavioral and physical health services.
- The current design of the initiative does not include the integration of behavioral health services; this is primarily due to feedback from consumer/behavioral health advocates and providers and the familiarity with how HealthChoices (Medical Assistance Program) is currently designed and administered. The current initiative does not exclude individuals from participating if they need behavioral health services; however, they will continue to receive behavioral health services through their current provider/system that is separate from the initiative's acute/physical health system of care.
- In light of separate systems of care for physical and behavioral health, the group discussed communication strategies between behavioral and physical health providers that could be incorporated into the initiative.
- The need for future meetings will be determined as the initiative rolls out.

Share the Care – Case Review

The Long Term Living Training Institute assisted in designing an electronic survey through Survey Monkey. Attendees of the spring/summer 2008 training were asked to complete the survey in early August to gauge the success of the training and to determine whether progress has been made in Aging/MH collaboration for the counties who participated. 26 of the 63 attendees responded. Follow up is being conducted for the remaining 37 attendees to request that they complete the survey by phone.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Workgroup

Cynthia Zubritsky, University of Pennsylvania, submitted a first draft of the MOU workbook designed to assist county Aging and Behavioral Health agencies to develop their MOU's. Dr. Zubritsky is currently making some revisions to the first draft, and when she completes the second draft, we will reconvene the MOU Committee for their review and input.