

HELPIng BC-SCORES Implementation Grantee Report

Executive Summary

In October 2014, the Beaver County Behavioral Health (BCBH) program received funding from the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to expand its youth system of care, HELPIng BC-SCORES (Beaver County's System of Care: Optimizing Resources, Education and Supports). The target population is transition age youth (13 to 21) **who have a behavioral health diagnosis**. The purpose of HELPIng BC-SCORES is to improve behavioral health outcomes for children and youth with serious emotional disturbances and their families by enhancing, expanding, and sustaining the System of Care (SOC) process underway in Beaver County, Pennsylvania.

The primary aim of the HELPIng BC SCORES report is to evaluate the effectiveness of the system of care in Year 1 as it relates to: child and family outcomes, development and implementation of the areas of expansion and enhancement to the system of care, sustainability of the system of care, services provided and cost of such services, consumer perception of service experience, and the relationships between the system of care and child and family outcomes.

The mobile response unit (HELP team) that serves families in crisis is at the heart of the SOC expansion, but other activities occurred during Year 1, as well, including a mentoring program for youth, working with natural support agencies to teach and promote wellness, and developing a trained workforce. During its first year of funding, HELPIng BC SCORES realized numerous successes. The following are examples of these accomplishments:

- Addition of the mobile response HELP team to the SOC
- Mentoring of 57 high school students by Community Alternatives
- Training of three natural support agencies by Keystone Wellness Programs that, thereafter, accomplished a total of 92 wellness encounters with 23 youth
- Expansion of access to the electronic Service Plan (eSP)
- Communication and collaboration among service providers through participation in meetings of the SCORES coalition and other SOC subcommittees
- Training of six enrollment sites in collection of DCI data
- Enrollment of 34 clients in HELPIng SCORES data collection by Pressley Ridge's HELP Team and Family Based Mental Health as well as Glade Run Lutheran Services' Blended Case Management
- Utilization of IPP and DCI data for local evaluation purposes
- Nine different training activities that were attended by representatives of approximately 25 agencies, organizations, and natural supports
- Training of 72 people at six Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) trainings.
- Training of seven additional YMHFA trainers
- Using Youth Community Day as a vehicle for informing the community about HELPIng SCORES and bringing partner agencies together in one event. Over 162 people and 62

exhibitors (121 additional people) participated. Among the participants were 28 students from eight school districts who participated in the “Help When You Need It” poster contest sponsored by Community Alternatives and three radio stations.

As the SOC continues to advance, areas of focus for improvement include:

- Continue to strive for 51% family and youth participation in SOC subcommittees, data collection and interpretation efforts, and general participation in HELPing BC-SCORES initiatives. This can be achieved by working more closely with natural supports in the community, continued outreach to school districts and community organizations that work with family and youth.
- Utilization of the local evaluation data to support social marketing efforts and informing the community of the system of care.

The complete HELPing BC-SCORES Implementation Grantee Report provides details about the grant-funded activities and details the successes achieved as well as the challenges encountered and the attempts that were made to overcome them.