

# ODADAS/ODMH Department Consolidation Evaluation Workgroup Summary & Recommendations

## Introduction

Stakeholders representing ODADAS, ODMH, providers and Boards met for intensive sessions on August 17<sup>th</sup> and August 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss the mission, principles, and functions of planning, research and evaluation within the combined behavioral health department. There was broad agreement among the group that needs assessment technology should play a pivotal role in determining how scarce resources are allocated. There was also strong support for the use of program evaluation as a means to estimate the effectiveness of services. The following guiding principles were identified by the workgroup:

1. Establish a process to understand need, resources available and readiness for change across systems, organizations, and at the individual level.
2. Create an evaluation system that justifies the cost and effort of its implementation.
3. Ensure useful data collection and timely distribution of relevant reports and findings to the field and stakeholders.
4. Establish an information exchange for sharing of applied research and evaluation findings to enable policy makers, practitioners, and stakeholders to make informed decisions at multiple levels.

## Mission Statement

To assess and improve the quality and effectiveness of behavioral health services and inform policy and resource allocation decisions through validated processes.

## Subject Matter Expertise: (Future division emphasis – not necessarily what the current activities are now)

|   |                       |   |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| Epidemiology  | Literature Review     | Quality Improvement                               |
| Evaluation Design   | Planning              | Report Preparation (Focus on science to practice) |
| Geocoding and Mapping   | Presentation Graphics | Statistical Analysis                              |
| Grant Writing   | Project Management    | Survey Development                                |
| Healthcare Economics  | Qualitative Research  | Behavioral Health Services Research               |
| IT Expertise (Focus on programming, application development, data mining & data extraction) |                       |   |

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONTENT AREAS:

1. Planning
  - Needs Assessment
  - Capacity to Address Needs
  - Prioritization for Treatment and Recovery Services, Prevention and Infrastructure
  - Identify Collaborative Efforts (for results)
  - Goals/Objectives/Measures (related to priorities)
  - Evaluation of Plan

## 2. Epidemiology

- New & Emerging Trends for SA and MH
- Prevalence Surveys
- YRBS Involvement
- SEOW/OSAM
- OFHS
- Other Relevant Data

## 3. Outcomes & Process Improvement

- Outcome Studies
- Systematic Efforts at Improving Efficiencies & Effectiveness
- Best Practices Studies
- OHBH
- Benchmarking

## 4. Technical Assistance

- To Boards & Providers (process improvement, program evaluation)
- To Universities (research questions, design, access, dissertation design)

## 5. Research and Evaluation

- OHBH
- Analysis of Existing Administrative Data Systems (including data connectivity)
- Original Internally Driven Research Projects
- Externally Funded Research Projects
- Externally Funded Evaluation Projects
- Research Grants Program

## 6. Grants Support

The office will draw on the needs assessment and evaluation resources of the division to identify and pursue funding that enhances the mission and goals of the department. Specific responsibilities of this office will include:

- Review funding plans of federal agencies and foundations.
- Promote grant initiatives aligned with the strategic plans and interests of the department.
- Support boards and agencies in their efforts to obtain competitive grant funding.

## Acronyms

- CQI: Continuous Quality Improvement
- MOE: Maintenance of Effort (non-Federal expenditures to treat & prevent substance abuse)
- NOMs: National Outcome Measures as defined by SAMHSA
- OHBH: Ohio Behavioral Health data
- SAPT: Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment Block Grant
- SEOW: State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup
- SPF: Strategic Prevention Framework
- TEDS: Treatment Episode Data Set – annual substance abuse treatment admissions collected by SAMHSA

## **DEFINITIONS**

### Epidemiology

World Health Organization definition of epidemiology:

“Epidemiology is the study of the distribution and determinants of health-related states or events (including disease), and the application of this study to the control of diseases and other health problems. Various methods can be used to carry out epidemiological investigations: surveillance and descriptive studies can be used to study distribution; analytical studies are used to study determinants.”

Bonita, Ruth. (2006) Basic epidemiology. 2nd edition. World Health Organization.

### Needs Assessment

Needs assessment is a systematic process for determining and addressing needs, or "gaps" between current conditions and desired conditions or "wants". The discrepancy between the current condition and wanted condition must be measured to appropriately identify the need. The need can be a desire to improve current performance or to correct a deficiency.

Kaufman, R., & English, F. W. (1979). Needs assessment: Concept and application. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Educational Technology Publications.

### Program Evaluation

Program evaluation is directed at how well a program or initiative is being implemented and to determine whether that program or initiative is achieving the desired results.

Milstein, R. & Wetterhall, S. (1999). Framework for Program Evaluation in Public Health. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 48(RR11); 1-40.

### Process Improvement

Utilizing a set of tools to improve organizational processes leading to greater efficiencies and/or effectiveness.

Cook, Sarah (1996). Process Improvement: A handbook for managers. Gowler Publishing Ltd.

### Research

The systematic investigation into and study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions.

Primary Research - efforts which involve collecting new data

Secondary Research - efforts utilizing existing data sources

Gauch, Jr., H.G. (2003). Scientific method in practice. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. 2003