

SFY 2014-15 Budget

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Hospital Systems of Care and Electronic Medical Records

Problem: The Regional Psychiatric Hospital system operated by Ohio MHAS needs an affordable electronic medical record (EMR) service that is in line with industry standards, and supports patient safety and healthcare reform. For clinical documentation, the hospitals have been using Netsmart's Avatar product, and its antecedents, for assessments, treatment plans and progress notes since 1995. However, the cost of advancing a new state-of-the art system has been a big consideration and hurdle to a much needed update.

Solution: The solution has been found through a shared services partnership with The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center (OSUWMC) to host the state psychiatric hospitals' EMR services. OSUWMC has received national recognition for its recent implementation of a fully mature, established EMR software system (EPIC). Further, OSUWMC is uniquely situated, as an authorized enterprise level organization, to extend its EMR to other providers, such as Ohio MHAS. It is estimated that a 30- to 36-month implementation will be needed, and we plan to roll-out in one hospital every two months starting in January 2015. Funding for this proposal will be found through cost savings within the hospital system. The partnership with OSUWMC makes this much needed upgrade an affordable option for the state.

Background:

- On a daily basis, approximately 1,000 individuals are receiving comprehensive inpatient treatment at ODMH's regional psychiatric hospitals. In the course of a year, more than 6,500 individuals are admitted and discharged. The hospital system also provides prevention, education and outreach programs in a community-supported environment.
- A Hospital Services System of Care initiative identified major clinical and administrative priorities for the provision of patient care, with an emphasis on reducing variation and improving access, safety, quality and efficiency for the system. A strategic plan for Hospital Services is focusing on a shared set of goals, objectives and strategies moving forward. <http://mentalhealth.ohio.gov/assets/hospital-services/system-of-care-initiative.pdf>
- Ohio has fully implemented processes for standardization of practices throughout all state-operated hospitals, and has moved several of the initiatives into community settings to improve the health and well-being of individuals with severe mental illness by addressing additional health problems.
- During 2012, ODMH continued to realign its hospital service areas that provide access to acute inpatient mental health care for citizens served by the county Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Boards or placed by the local court systems. Despite reducing the number of buildings and overhead costs, ODMH has been able to maintain a constant capacity of about 1,150 beds during the last decade, ensuring that both civil and forensic patients can access treatment.
- The civil (or voluntary) patients make up about 40 percent of those in treatment with an average length of stay of 11.5 days. About 60 percent of those treated are "forensic," meaning under the jurisdiction of the civil or criminal courts. They may stay months or years based on their charges and the direction of the court.
- Capital dollars saved after a hospital in Cleveland was officially closed on June 30, 2011, have been re-purposed to improve environments at remaining state hospitals and operational savings benefit the community mental health system.

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