

Priority: Basic Needs
Program Offer Type: New Program
Related Programs:

Lead Agency: County Human Services
Program Contact: Mary Shortall

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

Mental Health Specialists are needed to assess and treat isolated elderly and disabled persons who are unable to use traditional mental health services because they are frail, have cognitive or mental health impairments or social or economic limitations. These positions add mental health assessment, treatment and advocacy to prevent further deterioration and to link clients to existing resources. This offer provides funding to bring Mental Health Specialist capacity back to FY04-05 funding levels

Program Description

The Mental Health Specialist performs outreach and mental health and cognitive assessments to identify frail elderly and disabled adults who have untreated mental health needs. This offer will provide brief treatment of mental health conditions in the client's home. They also link isolated and underserved frail and disabled clients to existing mental health providers, and coordinate mental health treatment with medical professionals, case managers and other involved care providers.

The Mental Health Specialist assists clients in accessing community programs and services. They are an important part of the Multi-disciplinary Team (MDT) comprised of a social worker, registered nurse, case manager, protective services worker, and other professionals as needed. The MDT provides ongoing assessments and coordinates ongoing services with all client care providers through consultation, case staffing and written evaluations.

Program Justification

Research indicates that 20% of adults 65 and over suffer from mental illness and 15% have substance abuse problems. Those with mental health issues are 3 times more likely to go to a NF. Prior Key results survey FY 02 indicated that this program was 87% successful in improving the clients living situation after 3 months of Mental Health Specialist intervention. This program meets Basic Needs Priority strategies of protecting vulnerable adults from abuse and neglect, providing crisis intervention, access to psychiatric medications, and support in emergent mental health situations. Seniors are the most rapidly growing demographic sector of our population. Older adults are less likely to use traditional mental health services. Barriers to treatment include physical frailty, cognitive deficits, lack of transportation, isolation and perceived stigma of seeking mental health services. Accurate assessment and early intervention with mental health disorders or cognitive impairments promote the highest level of independent living and helps elderly and persons with disabilities maintain their housing. These services contribute to the Basic Needs Priority strategies and the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness by protecting individuals and stabilizing their living situations.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY04-05)	Current Year Purchased (FY05-06)	Current Year Estimate (FY05-06)	Next Year Offer (FY06-07)
Output	# additional clients receiving mental health assessments, & treatments - New *	120	0	0	80
Outcome	% of clients with improved MH status following 90 days of intervention - New **	0%	0%	0%	75%
Output	Additional Hours of mental health consultations, assessments and treatments	2,483	0	0	2,000

Performance Measure - Description

*This data will be gathered in collaboration with Cascadia Mental Health Older Adult Program.

**Percentage improved criteria may include accepting and following through with appropriate services.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

There is a contract with Cascadia Behavioral Health to provide the mental health specialists.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2006	2006	2007	2007
Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$182,677	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$182,677	\$0
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$11,369	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$21,051	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$32,420	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$0	\$0	\$215,097	\$0
Program Total:	\$0		\$215,097	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

This restores County general funds to FY04-05 levels for this service.

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #25061B, MH Older & Disabled Services Additional Capacity

Program was reduced by 60% last year due to budget cuts. As a result Adult Protective Services program ends up carrying the burden of working with these clients thus shifting the workload from Mental Health to Aging and Disability Services. The additional positions will help provide counseling, and treatment, which are highly needed for improved quality of life and the safety of our clients.

In addition, the population most at risk for self neglect and abuse are elderly individuals over age 85. Based on census figures this is the fastest growing population; there has been an 18% increase in the over 85 population between 1990 and 2000.