

Selection and Verification Workgroup Summary

Stakeholders, known as the Selection and Verification Workgroup, met four times from August through November 2004 to recommend: 1) a process for OMHAS to create a list of approved evidence-based practices; and 2) a process to verify the implementation of an evidence-based practice at a provider. The following is a summary of the recommendations approved by the group.

Identification and Listing of Evidence-Based Practices

OMHAS has developed an operational definition to evaluate a practice's level of evidence. At minimum a practice needs to have a formalized structure that can be judged and replicated. The practice must have demonstrable data from research/evaluation studies that support its relationship with positive outcomes. The Selection and Verification Workgroup recommends that:

- A team of OMHAS staff compiles a list of practices for review from available resources, such as lists compiled by other states or SAMSHA.
- These practices will be reviewed based on criteria in the OMHAS operational definition of evidence-based practice.
- Following the staff review, a panel of stakeholders consisting of providers, consumers, families, and academic professionals will provide oversight to staff work.
- Finally, the administrator or assistant administrator will approve the work.
- The results from this review will generate a list of OMHAS approved evidence-based practices. Information about practices that have been reviewed will be available on the OMHAS web site.

Following completion of initial work, stakeholders and community providers will submit practices that have not been reviewed for evaluation against the operational definition. OMHAS will work with all community partners to

monitor developments in mental health, substance abuse, and prevention to insure the list of approved practices is up to date. We will make this information available to all interested parties.

Evaluation of the Implementation of Evidence-Based Practices

To keep track of providers that are using evidence-based practices, the Selection and Verification Workgroup recommended that OMHAS develop an approval process following this outline:

- A provider implementing an approved EBP will submit sufficient information to OMHAS to demonstrate that it is delivering the practice with a degree of fidelity.
- The information will include how basic outcomes associated with the practice are tracked and a description of how fidelity to the practice is tracked. This data will be used to confirm that a provider is delivering a particular EBP. *(The Outcomes Work Group led by OMHAS will determine the collection of this information and the associated process.)*
- All providers confirmed for a particular practice will be required to submit data to OMHAS through its relevant contractor (MHO, FCHP, CMHP, or OMHAS), depending on the source of funding for a practice.
- The data will consist of an annual report on the evidence-based practices being implemented by the provider.

Providers successfully implementing an EBP will be identified on the OMHAS web site, in an effort to facilitate instate knowledge sharing about the implementation of a particular practice. This will support our technical assistance activities.

OMHAS is approaching this process with both short-term and long-term goals. The preceding describes how the data collection will progress in the short-term. In the long term OMHAS must pursue methodologies for collecting information that conforms to other general data collection procedures, such as the Client Process Monitoring System (or its successor).