Van Buren

**Community Mental Health Authority**

**Ends Monitoring Report**

**February 2018**

**SUBJECT: Children with Developmental Disabilities & Serious Emotional Disturbances**

**POLICY:** **There will be improved functioning in children and their families whose functioning is impaired by developmental disability or a mental/emotional condition.**

**For children there will be improvement in their:**

1. **Functioning**
2. **School performance**
3. **Participation in their community**
4. **Overall family functioning**

This is the ninth year of monitoring reports on the Children’s End cited above and the interpretation of the end cited below.

The current report provides data collected by Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health (SWMBH) using the Youth Services Survey (YSS). (In April 2018, results from other outcome data collected for youth served will be reported.)

***CEO Interpretation: (Portions addressed in current report are highlighted in yellow)***

***Improved functioning*** *means that families of children served will indicate the child has improved functioning and outcomes as indicated by a validated instrument.*

***Improved school performance*** *means that children served in intensive programs will demonstrate improvement in grades and school attendance according to school records. Families of children served will indicate improved school performance.*

***Improved participation in their community*** *means that families and children served will indicate higher levels of social connection in their community. Additionally, children served in intensive programs will increase the number of community activities in which they participate.*

***Improved overall family functioning*** *means that families served will indicate satisfaction with family life, and having social and family supports. Additionally, families served in intensive services will have fewer substantiated abuse and neglect issues.*

***Monitoring report***

**Youth Services Survey**

The Youth Services Survey (YSS) developed by the Mental Health Statistics Improvement Program was the instrument used to determine improvement in the areas of outcomes, improved functioning and social connectedness and family life. The YSS was chosen because it has been validated as a meaningful instrument; it is in the public domain and thus free to use; and it has been used throughout the country so comparison scores for similar populations served are available. VBCMH administered the survey to families served annually from 2009-2014. In the past few years, SWMBH has utilized the YSS and completed the survey for all CMHs in the region. SWMBH’s administration includes the satisfaction with services dimensions of the YSS. SWMBH randomly selected a sample of youth who received services at VBCMH. The survey was completed by an independent firm through phone calls to parents/guardians of youth. For this year’s survey, the sample size for SWMBH overall was robust enough to have full confidence in that the survey represents the total population of families served. The sample size for VBCMH was smaller than in previous years and thus less assurance that the results represent the total population of families served. The VBCMH scores are consistent to previous years’ results which increases confidence that they are valid.

In the years that VBCMH conducted this survey on its own, we found that the state of Oregon offered the most complete data collected on a population similar to that served by VBCMH (outpatient mental health services for children with serious emotional disturbance and including children with developmental disabilities). Oregon has collected and published the data each year since 2004 and their published reports provide enough detail to insure that data analysis is completed in the same manner. Comparisons to regional data are offered as well as the analysis provided in previous years against the national averages obtained from Oregon.

**Regional comparisons**

The full YSS survey was administered through SWMBH, whereas in the past VBCMH administered only the Outcomes, Functioning and Social Connectedness sections. SWMBH reported that in 5 of 6 domains, VBCMH demonstrated higher averages than the region and in one domain, Access, the scores were both high and equal. SWMBH further reported that in the Outcomes domain, the ‘in agreement’ percentages for VBCMH were significantly higher than the SWMBH average. (SWMBH did not calculate the Functioning domain.)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Access | Participation in to treatment | Cultural Sensitivity | Appropriateness of treatment | Outcomes | Social Connectedness |
| VBCMH | 92 | 96 | 100 | 79 | 68 | 96 |
| SWMBH | 92 | 92 | 97 | 78 | 62 | 93 |

**Comparisons with Oregon**

Consistent with prior year reviews, the data collected by SWMBH was compared to Oregon. In order to compare scores with the State of Oregon, computation of the section scores, called domain scores, were calculated following the same methodology as in Oregon. A domain score that averaged 3.5 or greater was considered positive, and only those scores for persons answering two-thirds of the questions in a section were counted. Domain scores require a consistently positive response to individual items within a section in order to characterize a responder as having positive perceptions of that area. Domain scores are a more robust comparative indicator than the simple in agreement percentages used by SWMBH. Although the scores reported above are not directly comparable to Oregon, for VBCMH the scores calculated each way were the same for Outcomes and Social Connectedness.

The **Outcomes of Treatment** domain looks for improvement in the quality of life in such areas as handling daily life, satisfaction with family and doing better in school. The **Daily Functioning** domain shares several items with the Outcomes domain but also looks at coping skills and the child being able to do things he or she wants to do. The **Social Connectedness and Family Life** domain looks for the availability of social support for the family and use of community resources outside of mental health services. Some studies indicate that strong Social Connectedness scores are a good predictor of longer term positive outcomes.

VBCMH scores computed with this methodology were significantly higher in all three of the domains when compared to the scores for Oregon.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Van Buren | Oregon |  |
| **Daily functioning** | 64 | 61 |  |
| **Outcomes** | 68 | 61 |  |
| **Social connectedness** | 96 | 87 |  |

**Domain Scores Comparison**

**Review of YSS results and End’s interpretation:**

***Improved functioning*** *means that families of children served will indicate the child has improved functioning and outcomes as indicated by a validated instrument that includes handling of daily life, doing better in school, improved coping skills and being able participate in activities the child wishes to.* ***Improved school performance*** *means that families of children served will indicate improved school performance.*

The interpretive statement on Improved functioning lines up with two of the YSS domains (Daily Functioning and Outcomes of Treatment), and as above, the scores in those two domains are higher than the national baseline data with the Outcomes domain being significantly higher. Additionally as noted previously, the SWMBH comparison data indicates VBCMH scores are significantly higher in the Outcomes domain than the regional average. (Functioning domain scores were not calculated by SWMBH.)

Due to the smaller sample size for families served by VBCMH in the survey conducted by SWMBH, individual question average scores should be viewed cautiously and are not reported this year as in past years. One item on the YSS inquires about the family’s perception that the child is doing better in school. A majority of families served by VBCMH and in the national baseline data agreed or strongly agreed that school performance was improved. Though comparing the scores this year does not tell us much in that the confidence in individual items is not high for VBCMH, the VBCMH and national score are equivalent and in the last three years, when VBCMH’s sample size was robust, VBCMH’s score was higher than the national sample. (SWMBH does not report individual item scores.)

***Improved participation in their community*** *means that families and children served will indicate higher levels of social connection in their community.*

***Improved overall family functioning*** *means that families served will indicate satisfaction with family life, and having social and family supports.*

Families served by VBCMH and in Oregon scored high in the Social Connectedness and Family Life domain. Families served by VBCMH were significantly higher in this domain (96% vs 87 %.) These results are also consistent with previous years. The average score for the item asking about satisfaction with family life was 20 points higher for VBCMH than for the national sample, which is consistent with previous years’ results however the item on gets along better with family is statistically equal. As indicated in previous section, caution must be used when comparing individual question scores this year. In general, VBCMH families indicate a significantly higher level of agreement with items indicating social and emotional support or levels of social connectedness.

**Comparison with previous years’ data**

Comparing scores over the past seven years shows the scores for VBCMH as consistently higher than national baseline.

The remaining outcome data for children will be reported in April 2018 and a Board motion will be asked for at that time.