

**Van Buren  
Community Mental Health Authority  
Ends Monitoring Report (Part 1)  
June 2024**

**SUBJECT: Adults with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities, Serious Mental Illness or Substance Use Disorder**

**POLICY:**

There will be an improvement in the quality of life for adults and older adults with serious mental illness, intellectual/developmental disabilities or substance use disorders which will be noted by improvement in their:

- functioning
- positive participation in their community

***CEO Interpretation:***

***(Portions addressed in current report)***

***Improvement in functioning*** means that adults and older adults served will demonstrate an increased sense of well being and self sufficiency. Adults and older adults will have relief from acute psychiatric conditions and will indicate that symptoms of mental illness interfere less with their daily life. Adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities will maximize their physical and cognitive ability to interact with people and their environment, whether at home, workplace, or general community settings.

***Improvement in positive participation in their community*** means that adults and older adults will self define their occupancy of time and have increased engagement in activities they find meaningful. Defining how their time is occupied and engaging in meaningful activities includes having friendships and family relationships and contributing to their communities through paid or volunteer work. Adults and older adults will live in places that are safe and where they have choice in their day to day lives.

***Monitoring report***

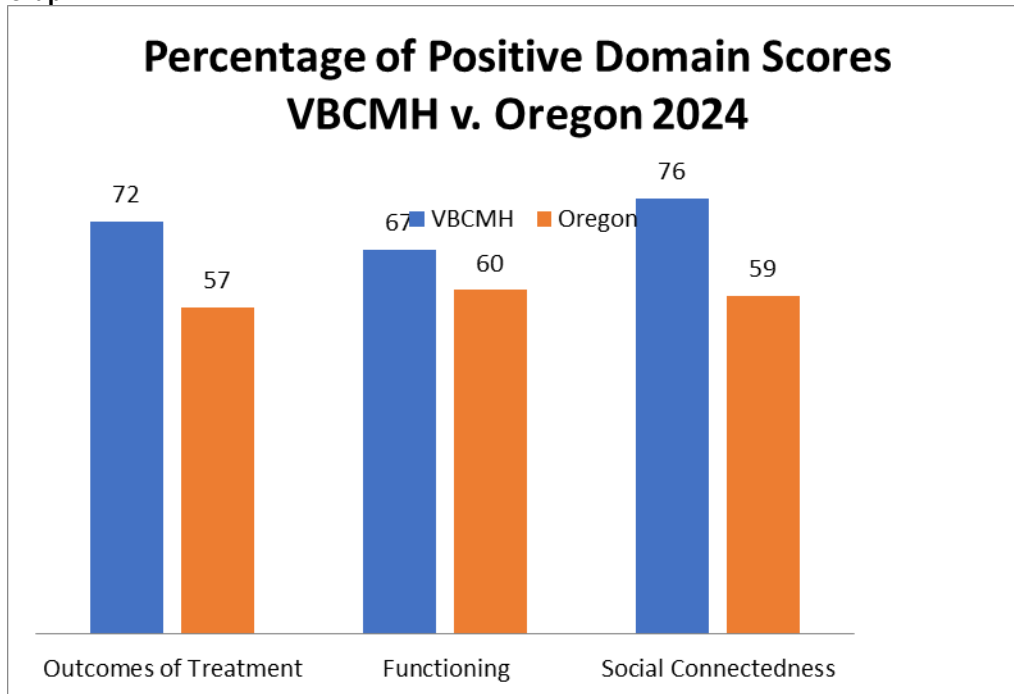
The following report presents evidence that VBCMh is improving the functioning and positive participation in their community of adult customers. This report comes from data using the Mental Health Statistics Improvement Program (MHSIP) survey. Specifically, for this report, the data utilized was from the sections of the survey that gathers information on Outcomes of Treatment and Services, Functioning, and Social Connectedness. This is the 15th year VBCMh has reported on these sections of MHSIP data. The MHSIP was chosen because it has been validated as a meaningful instrument; it is in the public domain and thus free to use. Each question is answered on a 5-point scale including the choices of 5 = strongly agree with the statement, agree, neutral or not sure, disagree and 1 = strongly disagree with the statement. All statements are worded as positive statements. VBCMh implemented the survey utilizing the relevant portions of the YSS with families on paper, turned in anonymously or if preferred through an anonymous electronic link. A total of 244 surveys completed by adult customers were returned during a three-week period in April and May 2024.

As was the case in past years for adults and for children served by VBCMh, the state of Oregon offered the most complete data report on a population similar to that served by VBCMh. The State of Oregon data included adults served by a comprehensive system of services, included adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities and with substance use disorders. The comparisons offered here

are with the most recent data published. 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 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. The Oregon report characterizes this as a relatively high threshold for rating domain scores as positive.

As can be seen in the Graph 1 below, VBCMh scores computed with this methodology were consistently and significantly higher than the scores reported from the State of Oregon.

**Graph 1**



Over the past 15 years, the domain scores for all three scales have been higher for VBCMh than for the comparison. The scores this year are very similar to the scores last year with only the score for VBCMh customers on the outcomes of treatment domain showing a significant increase ( 7.5 percentage points.) All other domain scores changed less than 1%. The information presented above indicates that adult customers from VBCMh report better than national averages that the services received have improved their lives.

The questions in each domain are listed below in Table 1.

**Table 1**

<b>As a direct result of the services I received:</b>
<b>Outcomes domain includes items 1-8</b>
1. I deal more effectively with daily problems.
2. I am better able to control my life.
3. I am better able to deal with crisis.
4. I am getting along better with my family.
5. I do better in social situations.
6. I do better in school and/or work.

7. My housing situation has improved.
8. My symptoms are not bothering me as much. (this Q. is not asked of adults with I/DD)
<b>Functioning domain includes items 8 through 11</b>
9. I do things that are more meaningful to me.
10. I am better able to take care of my needs.
11. I am better able to handle things when they go wrong.
<b>Social connectedness domain includes items 12-16</b>
12. I am better able to do things that I want to do.
13. I am happy with the friendships I have.
14. I have people with whom I can do enjoyable things.
15. I feel I belong in my community.
16. In a crisis, I would have the support I need from family or friends.

### **Specific Ends Statements**

Looking at the specific Ends statements and how each aligns with this data; one can see that the desired outcome of improvement in functioning matches the language of the survey for the sections or domains of Outcomes and Functioning on the MHSIP. As presented above, VBCMh adult customers rate the improvement in their lives as a result of services received more highly than the comparison group. The desired outcome of improved positive participation in their community lines up with the section or domain of Social Connectedness, and again, VBCMh adult customers rate the improvement in this area, as a result of services received, more highly than the comparison group.

Looking at each approved interpretation statement for the End and matching it with the data collected yields supportive evidence spelled out below.

#### ***Adults and older adults served will demonstrate an increased sense of well being and self sufficiency.***

The concepts of well being and self sufficiency seem thoroughly covered by the items in the Outcomes and Functioning sections. The data indicate that adult customers of VBCMh more frequently agree with statements such as “I deal more effectively with daily problems,” “I am better able to deal with crisis,” “I do better in social situations,” “I do better in school or work,” and “I am better able to handle things when they go wrong,” as well as the other items in these sections.

Older adults served by VBCMh had equivalent scores to adults in general on both domains (Outcomes of Treatment and Functioning.)

#### ***Adults and older adults will have relief from acute psychiatric conditions and will indicate that symptoms of mental illness interfere less with their daily life.***

The items “My symptoms are not bothering me as much,” “I deal more effectively with daily problems,” “I am better able to control my life,” “I am better able to deal with crisis,” “I am better able to take care of my needs,” and “I am better able to handle things when they go wrong,” seem to specifically address the concept of relief from acute psychiatric conditions and less interference in daily life. Looking at the simple agreement percentages on these items, adults served at VBCMh score higher than the national sample (70% vs 61.5%.) Older adults served by VBCMh have a similar level of agreement as adults in general except on the item “I am better able to control my life”. On this item, older adults had a lower level of positive endorsement (55% vs 65%). This lower score among older adults may be attributable

to declining physical health or mobility but is worthwhile for staff to look into what interventions may help improve this outlook.

***Adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities will maximize their physical and cognitive ability to interact with people and their environment, whether at home, workplace, or general community settings.***

The above interpretation statement looks only at adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD). The scores from the adults with I/DD are statistically equivalent to those from the entire adult population on the Outcomes and Functioning domains and significantly higher on the Social Connectedness domain. No comparison sample of just adults with I/DD could be found, but we already know from the data reviewed that VBCMh scores were consistently higher than the comparison samples. The very high score of 91% agreement on the social connectedness scale points to success of the efforts to services and supports (both natural and paid) to assist adults with I/DD to build and maintain connections in the community.

	<b>VBCMh Adults with DD</b>
<b>Outcomes domain includes items 1-7</b>	63
<b>Functioning domain includes items 9 through 11</b>	73
<b>Social connectedness domain includes items 12-16</b>	91

***Improvement in positive participation in their community means that adults and older adults will self-define their occupancy of time and have increased engagement in activities they find meaningful. Defining how their time is occupied and engaging in meaningful activities includes having friendships and family relationships and contributing to their communities through paid or volunteer work.***

The Social Connectedness domain aligns with this interpretation statement and as stated earlier, was higher for VBCMh adult customers than for the comparison groups.

The score for older adults served by VBCMh was equivalent to that of all adults in this area (79% vs 76%.) Additional items that align with the interpretation statement of positive participation in their community and the corresponding scores can be seen in table below.

	<b>VBCMh</b>	<b>Older Adults</b>	<b>Oregon</b>
4. I am getting along better with my family	69	69	60
5. I do better in social situations.	58	58	53
9. I do things that are more meaningful to me.	69	72	60
12. I am better able to do things that I want to do.	72	80	59

One question in the social connectedness domain where VBCMh adult customers in recent years indicated less agreement with the item than those in the comparison in the years was “I have people with whom I can do enjoyable things.” During the pandemic VBCMh scores were 10 points lower than the national sample. This year this score improved for both adults in general and older adults by 10 points but did not improve in the national sample. Additional efforts to facilitate adults in our services to engage in leisure activities with others may have helped improve this score.

***Adults and older adults will live in places that are safe and where they have choice in their day to day lives***

The items “My housing situation has improved,” “I do things that are more meaningful to me,” and “I am better able to do the things I want to do,” most closely align with “live in places that are safe and where they have choice in their day to day lives.” Again, the results are positive when compared nationally.

	<b>VBCMh</b>	<b>Older Adults</b>	<b>Oregon</b>
7. My housing situation has improved	60	72	50
9. I do things that are more meaningful to me.	68	82	60
12. I am better able to do the things I want to do	72	80	59

**Summary**

The information presented above indicates that adult customers from VBCMh report better than national averages that the services received have improved their lives.

Part Two of this monitoring report will be presented at the next Board meeting.