

DRAFT WORK PLAN

Service System Structure and Financing Work Group

Charge: To evaluate the existing public mental health service system (the system), including the types of services provided, the organization and structure of the system by which such services are provided, and the oversight and control of the system, and to make recommendations for reform of the existing system to ensure consistent delivery of a full array of high-quality mental health prevention, treatment, and recovery support services across the age range in a timely and effective manner throughout the Commonwealth.

These are the questions that need to be answered:

1. What should the overarching service system structure look like?
 - a. State vs. local authority and control
 - b. Public agencies vs. private contracted entities as providers of services? (or a mix of these?)
 - c. Regional? Local?

2. What services should the service system provide?
 - a. Target populations - services across the lifespan; special populations
 - b. General categories of services - prevention, diagnosis, crisis, treatment, recovery support; mental health, substance abuse
 - c. Specific services
 - d. Inpatient & outpatient
 - e. Voluntary & involuntary
 - f. Crisis & prevention

3. How can we improve the delivery of the services provided?
 - a. Availability - uniform availability of all services through the Commonwealth
 - b. Accessibility - waiting lists; same day service?
 - c. Quality
 - d. Transitions - eliminate gaps across the system (inpatient → outpatient; involuntary → voluntary; child → adult); eliminate gaps as people move between localities
 - e. Coordination with other systems - health, social services, criminal justice

4. How do we finance the service delivery system?
 - a. What will it cost?
 - b. Can any resources be shifted to cover the cost?
 - c. What additional funding sources are available?

Next Steps:

- (1) identify the data and information necessary to make key decisions;
- (2) identify sources of data and information and begin collecting information;
- (3) synthesize data and information in a meaningful way to facilitate decision making;
- (4) prepare initial recommendations to present to the full Joint Subcommittee.