Braided Services and Funding

A Strategy for the 21st Century
Presented by

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Successful pooling of resources relies on solid collaborative partnerships

- Cost sharing agreements delineate agencies’ duties and funding responsibilities.
Both approaches combine funds from different agencies or programs into a single funding stream so they can be used to maximize service delivery.
Braided and Blended Funding

- **Braiding is when:**
  - Funds from various sources are used to pay for a service package, but tracking and accountability for each pot of money is maintained at the administrative level.

- **Blending is when:**
  - Funds are combined into a single pool from which they can be allocated to providers without discerning their source and specific requirements.
Examples from your experience
**Braided Funding**

- **How do you begin?**
  - Communication is the key
  - 5 Steps to design the Funding structure

- **What if it works?**
  - Improved Outcomes for behavioral health needs
Coordination/Braided Funding Streams

- Why would we want to?
  - VISION of linkages to provide best services for our community.
- What does it take?
  - RELATIONSHIP between program and fiscal staff
Identifying Opportunities to Coordinate/Braid Funds

- New or expanded program needs
- Overlaps in service delivery systems
- Unutilized State or Federal Allocations
- Available County general funds
- New grant funds
- Overlaps in allowable services/cost in multiple funding streams
- Loss of funding (State, Federal or County)
5 Steps to Braided Funding

- Define the service need or program design
- Review the funding sources available
- Select all potential/most likely funding sources
- Establish program budget to fit the program
- Document the financial requirements
Braided Funding – Step 1

- Identify Service Need
  - Increased demand for crisis services
  - Decrease availability of services for NTXIX population
  - Increased need for linkage back to community
Review funding services available
- Pima County Reinvestment funds
- TXIX SMI and GMH/SA
- NTXIX SMI
- Crisis
Braided Funding Step 3

- Select Potential Funding Sources
  - Started with Pima County Funds
  - Identified gap in services to enrolled members
  - Prioritized funds to cover everyone
Establish the program budget
- Using data to determine need
- Use of entitlement and assistance funds
- Access all one-time funds first
- Identify the order in which funds for direct services/non-administrative costs will be accessed per customer population
Document the Financial Requirements Design

- Choose a Fiscal Agent
  - Authorized entity for large funds
  - Infrastructure, knowledge of funding
  - Responsible for audit trails
- Complete a matrix of the requirements for each cost pool
- Establish expenditure procedures for budget line items within each cost pool
- Design management reports
- Determine timing of reporting
The ground work to pool or combine financial resources takes time and strong leadership

- Agency funding cycles and priorities vary from year to year, and financial commitments may fluctuate
- Unanticipated events are the norm rather than the exception
- Group must work together fix the problem in order to sustain the program
Program Evaluation: Measuring Success

- Have we achieved our goal?
  - Improved outcomes for intended target populations
  - Accessible services
  - Braiding is transparent to the customer
  - Return on investment
Peer–run Organization, became licensed as an outpatient site in October, 2012.
Serve Pima County/Tucson, Arizona
Offer Recovery–Oriented programs to promote improved quality of life, health and wellness, and community integration for people with mental health and/or substance use issues
Programs of HOPE

- Nueva Luz Day Program
- Community Service Program/Court Diversion
- Warm Line
- Community Re–entry Transition Team
- Supportive Peers Assisting as Navigators
- In–Home Health
Pima County approached CPSA with a proposal to use reinvestment dollars to create a program that would decrease the utilization of Title 36 petitions for people in crisis.

The program developed into a re-entry program modeled after an existing program of HOPE, Inc. at the Pima County Adult Detention Complex.

Supportive Peers Assisting as Navigators (SPAN) was created to be based out of the Crisis Response Center in Tucson, AZ, and to assist crisis staff with the discharge process.
Objectives

- Create a plan alongside crisis staff and network providers for people being discharged from crisis services.
- Create a continuum of care using existing community supports and resources.
- Decrease the number of people frequently using the CRC.
- Foster collaboration between agencies to support the person.
SPAN (Supportive Peers Assisting as Navigators) provides support to crisis and emergency staff.

Developed into a more comprehensive program where peers would assist crisis staff with the discharge process at the Crisis Response Center and provide a continuum of care through community support and resources.

Provides transportation away from the CRC if needed.

Responds to other crisis entities in the community when needed.
Meeting the Needs of the Community

- Operates 24/7, 365 days per year
- Office includes room for interviewing members to identify needs and discuss discharge.
- 2,048 indicated that one of the services they were seeking was community support, either social or recreational.
John Doe was frequently at the Crisis Response Center. He was visiting the CRC on a weekly basis, sometimes 2–3 times per day. His provider did not know what to do to prevent him from continuously using crisis services.
HOPE staff met with CRC staff and staff from his provider and developed a plan to develop community support, and reduce the utilization of crisis services.

The individual indicated that he was seeking community social support.

HOPE enrolled him as a member of Nueva Luz day program, which is open 7 days per week.

John has had no visits to the CRC since mid April.
Peer support reduces recidivism in the crisis and criminal justice systems.
Provides additional support to clinical staff.
Is effective and efficient.
Crisis systems are enhanced with the use of peer support staff.
Peer supports have the ability to spend more time with the individual and ensure the continuity of care.
Peer support fills gaps missing between systems of care.
Key Points

- When creating a new program, all stakeholders must be identified and included in the process.
- Braided funding and creativity can be used to weather economic downturns.
- Services are enhanced and more successful when community agencies come together for the common purpose of providing quality services.
Questions?

Thank you!