

Disability Rights California CaIMHSA SDR Work

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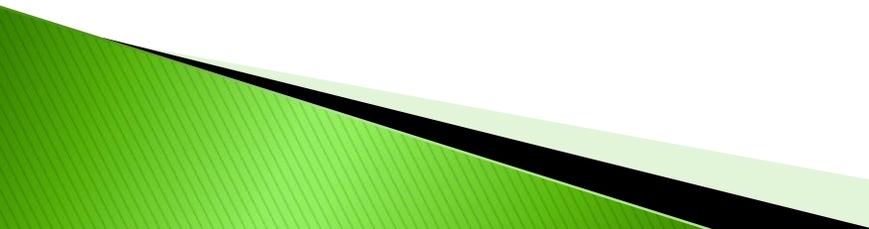
Enhancing Local PEI Efforts

- ▶ Training and fact sheet distribution, which educate about stigma & discrimination reduction
- ▶ As counties work on PEI activities, DRC materials & training enhance education, provide opportunities for discussion about issues raised & further training
- ▶ Policy papers identify where enforcement or change is needed & recommend next steps
- ▶ Mental health parity work ensures private health insurance covers mental health services to the same extent as physical health benefits
- ▶ This benefits county PEI efforts; for example: policy papers may make recommendations that lead to more affordable supported housing or identify best practices in first responder training
- ▶ Ultimately: decreased stigma & discrimination so people lead productive quality lives in communities of their choice

Examining Challenges in Transitioning from High School to Post-Secondary School Paper

- ▶ Moving from high school to a post-secondary education setting brings with it additional unique demands when the student has mental health disabilities. This was of particular concern for members of the Youth Advisory Group that subcontractor Mental Health Advocacy Services convened leading to development of a policy paper on the subject.
- ▶ Preliminary recommendations for changes:
 - Train Disabled Student Program Services staff on mental health disabilities
 - Provide accommodations for seeking accommodations or simplify the process
 - Develop peer counseling and mentoring programs to empower student with mental health disabilities

Officer Training in Responding to People Experiencing a Mental Health Crisis Paper

- ▶ State law doesn't require specialized officer training to respond to people experiencing a mental health crisis. Several police agencies have specialized training programs or "Crisis Intervention Team" (CIT) training.
 - ▶ We are part of San Francisco's CIT training curriculum development & implementation. As a steering committee member, we are developing a mapping system of mental health resources for San Francisco CIT officers.
 - ▶ We surveyed law enforcement agencies to determine the scope & content of their training. We interviewed mental health clients, mental health providers, experts, & law enforcement officers regarding their perspectives on "best practices" for training resources.
 - ▶ Our policy paper will identify essential elements of law enforcement training, barriers to training, & the benefits & limitations of various training models.
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Mental Health Parity Work

- ▶ Identify laws mandating parity in health care coverage for people with mental health disabilities; develop materials & training to educate about parity rights
 - ▶ Provide technical assistance & in select cases raising systemic issues provide legal representation to people denied parity in health care coverage
 - ▶ Participate in stakeholder forums, develop issue statements and make recommendations for system changes to encourage parity in health care coverage
 - ▶ Subcontractors include: Mental Health Advocacy Services; Mental Health Advocacy Project; Legal Aid Society of San Diego
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