

From: Fwpsnt@aol.com [mailto:Fwpsnt@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2009 9:08 AM
To: EBSA, E-OHPSCA - EBSA
Subject: (no subject)

Don't waste money and resources on programs that fail time and time again

One of the most effective way to implement the new law (and one of the most cost effective) is to use outcome based practices instead of evident based practices. Evident based practices can be shooting some up with drugs and they shuffle around every day. The evidence says that it works because they don't get into trouble and are not a bother to society anymore but if it was out come then the person that can function as an individual with moderate supervision and live on their own, now that is successful outcomes.

The parity law has to address the funding resources and uses.

Unfortunately most resources goes for infrastructure and not provide help to the people that it is intended. In this way we have already reached parity. Wasteful spending is the norm for most programs.

In mental health there are fine lines between what works and what doesn't. So one shoe doesn't fit all and maybe one shoe only fits one, not very cost effective but that is the way the brain and ours bodies work. Now if the amount of funding was available for mental health that is available for medical health I believe that programs can be put together to help combat a lot of the poor perceptions of the " Mentally Ill ".

Peer support programs work, not the ones that are run by agencies but that are run by peers. The conception is not new but it never really goes into effect because there are people in the Mental Health Departments around the country that want to control their piece of the pie. There are intelligent people who can run peer run programs with great success and in the long run save many county's money doing it. You don't have to have a MSW or Dr. after your name to know when you neighbor is having a problem. What you do need a system in place that can come to the aid of that person before it gets into the crises mode. A nation wide Peer Support Program to come to the aid of those that might just need a friend to talk to. A program that can visit the jails to help people with mental health issues get the resources that they need when they are released. Does it work, heck yes it does. Just contact me and I'll show you people that have never gone back to jail again after being mentored before getting out. Its not easy but it is a very rewarding position to be in to help others that are in the same situation that I might be in because of my mental health issues.

FRANK A. WELCOME
Peer Advocate
250 Tradewinds
San Jacinto, California 92583

fwpsnt@aol.com
805-286-7012