June 24, 2008

TO: Executive Directors of Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans
   Executive Directors of Community Mental Health Services Programs
   Executive Directors of Substance Abuse Coordinating Agencies
   Integrated Dual Disorder Subcommittee Members

FROM: Michael J. Head, Deputy Director
       Mental Health and Substance Abuse Administration

       Donald Allen, Director
       Office of Drug Control Policy

SUBJECT: Integrated Systems for People with Co-occurring Disorders Update

This memo is in follow-up to the March 5, 2008 memo from Donald Allen and Patrick Barrie on the Integrated Treatment Committee. A new Integrated Treatment Committee will focus on broad system changes to assure the continued progress of both the mental health and substance abuse systems in best meeting the needs of individuals who have co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. The goal is to have co-occurring capable systems of care that are welcoming and have the capacity to develop integrated plans of service for people at all levels of need.

Meanwhile, the Integrated Dual Disorders Treatment (IDDT) Subcommittee will continue with the specific focus of implementation of the Co-occurring Disorders IDDT Evidence-Based Practice. We appreciate the work of this subcommittee and wish to continue meetings and Learn and Share opportunities at the frequency desired by the group. Membership on the IDDT subcommittee is open to all interested parties.

The Integrated Treatment Committee will be comprised of a limited number of individuals who will represent consumers, providers, regional administrators, and state administrators from mental health, substance abuse, and Medicaid. Participation commitments will be sought from the members, who are receiving individual invitations.

The Integrated Treatment Committee will address needed system changes to support a comprehensive system of care for people with co-occurring disorders. It will address the needs of individuals with mental illness at all levels of severity (mild, moderate, and serious) and co-occurring substance disorder. These individuals include all those served in the public substance abuse system as well as the public mental health system. Developing a co-occurring capable system of care is essential to promote the individual recovery of each individual with co-occurring needs.
The department’s Internal Integrated Treatment Group will provide oversight to the Integrated Treatment Committee. The committee is invited to give recommendations to the Department of Community Health. These recommendations will be handled by the Internal Integrated Treatment Group, which we chair.

Many members of the Integrated Treatment Committee are participating in the Statewide Change Agent Team meetings, which began in January. These regional teams will help assure that integrated services and systems that support them become firmly embedded throughout the state. We encourage your participation and support in this important transformation.

The following are the charges to the Integrated Treatment Committee:

- Incorporate all the stakeholders to develop a Continuous, Comprehensive Integrated System of Care for all the individuals serviced by the public mental health and substance abuse systems
- Develop consensus in addressing co-occurring disorder services for people at all levels of severity (all four quadrants)
- Work with the local change agent groups to address areas where system change is necessary to ease implementation
- Identify and address barriers
- Address performance improvement, quality improvement, and outcome monitoring

Representatives from both mental health and substance abuse are co-chairing the Integrated Treatment Committee. Please feel free to contact any of the chairs, listed below, if you would like more information:

Jane Konyndyk, network180, janek@network180
Dennis Priess, Northern Michigan Substance Abuse Services, dpriess@nmsas.net
Deborah Hollis, Office of Drug Control Policy, hollisd@michigan.gov
Patty Degnan, Community Mental Health Services, degnanp@michigan.gov

Tison Thomas is the department specialist assigned to this initiative. He may be contacted at thomastis@michigan.gov for information about the Integrated Treatment Committee, the Integrated Dual Disorders Subcommittee, Learn and Share sessions, or the Change Agent Team initiative.

It is our continuing mission to promote the development of integrated treatment capacity within the state’s public substance abuse and mental health systems. We look forward to working together to optimize services for people with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders.

cc: Practice Improvement Committee Members
Change Agent Team Members
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Management Team Members