**Analysis of Florida’s Behavioral Health System: A Focus on Three Counties**

**Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, CBCS, USF**

In September 2015 the Governor of Florida issued Executive Order 15-175 calling for the Department of Children and Families to conduct an analysis of the behavioral health system of care in Alachua, Pinellas and Broward counties including a review of local, state, and federally funded behavioral health services, and an analysis of how behavioral health services are delivered and how well they are integrated with other services. The Department has asked the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, College of Behavioral and Community Sciences, University of South Florida (FMHI) to assist with the completion of two primary tasks: administrative analysis of behavioral health services and costs, and case file reviews.

**Task #1. Analysis of behavioral health services and costs**

The purpose of this task is to identify the local, state, and federally funded behavioral health services used by adults with serious mental health problems and children and youth with serious emotional disturbances who are high service utilizers in Alachua, Pinellas, and Broward counties.

The specific target populations are:

* Adults with serious mental health problems who have been admitted to state mental health treatment facilities or to a community hospital for a mental health disorder, have been diverted from the criminal justice system by a mental health court, and/or who have been incarcerated
* Children and youth who are emotionally disturbed or seriously emotionally disturbed and who have been admitted to a Residential Treatment Center or Therapeutic Group Home, or who are involved with either the juvenile justice or child welfare system

**Evaluation Questions**

What are the demographic and diagnostic characteristics of individuals within these populations who used community-based behavioral health services over a five-year period (Calendar Year 2010 through Calendar Year 2014)?

What are the mental health and substance abuse service utilization patterns and costs for these individuals?

What proportion of the adults with SMI was admitted to mental health state hospitals? What is the average length of stay of the admissions?

What proportion of the adults with SMI was incarcerated in DOC facilities? What is the average length of incarceration?

What proportion of the children and youth with SED were admitted to RTCs and TGC? What is the average length of stay of the admissions?

What is the criminal justice history including arrests of individuals with inpatient admissions?

For those individuals with institutional admissions, what are the service utilization patterns including Baker Act examinations for the six months prior to admission?

What is the length of time to receipt of outpatient and community-based services post-discharge from inpatient programs?

For those individuals with inpatient admissions, how many were readmitted within three and six months of discharge? What are the demographic and clinical characteristics of individuals with readmissions?

**Task #2. Case File Reviews**

The purpose of this task is to describe how the target population individuals in Alachua, Pinellas, and Broward counties move through the local system of care. 45 case file reviews will be conducted across the three sites using a structured case file review protocol. After the case file reviews are completed at each site, interviews will be conducted with one or more clinical supervisors, and focus groups will be held with up to 15 consumers and/or caregivers across the three sites.

**Evaluation Questions**

What is the level of consumer engagement and choice reflected in the case record, at first contact with the behavioral health system, during assessment and throughout treatment?

Did the individual receive an appropriate and timely assessment of his/her behavioral health needs?

Did the individual receive in a timely manner the services and supports recommended in the assessment?

Is there evidence of interagency coordination for individuals receiving services from more than one agency?

If the individual was engaged with the justice system, what are the individual’s experiences at critical junctures (law enforcement contacts with police and 911 dispatchers, initial detention and court hearings, jail, re-entry into the community)?

**Reports**

Final Data Analysis Report and final Case File Review Report are due on 5/25/16; Executive Summary Report is due on June 3, 2016.