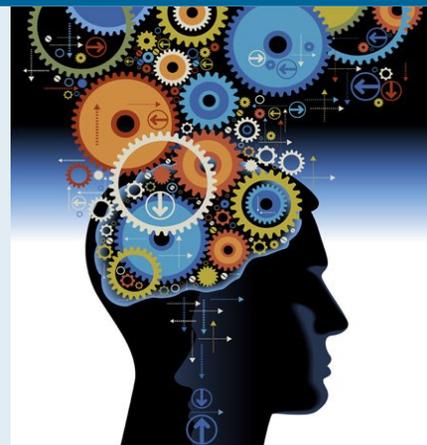


# Florida Medicaid Drug Therapy Management Program for Behavioral Health, University of South Florida

Summer 2014

## Program Highlights and Updates — Summer 2014



- ◆ **New whole health program** implemented at Directions for Living in Clearwater, Florida. The NOW (Total Health Experience: Nurturing our Wellness) Program is led by Certified Peer Support Specialists who provide individuals with serious mental illness support for weight management and improving their physical health. Components of the program include whole health education and goal setting, support groups, and one-on-one health coaching. The NOW Program is in the pilot phase and is currently recruiting 40 participants.
- ◆ **First meeting of a newly formed Advisory Committee** for the Florida Medicaid Drug Therapy Management Program held in June. The role of the Advisory Committee is to review the Program's activities and provide advice on high-impact projects for the future. The committee is comprised of stakeholders from Florida community mental health centers, academic institutions, the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), managed care companies, and consumer groups. The committee recommended that the Program pursue two projects in the next fiscal year: 1) The integration of physical and mental health for individuals with serious mental illness; and 2) Improve data collection and reporting capabilities on high utilizers of mental and physical health services.
- ◆ **Implemented an integration of physical and mental health quality improvement project** at two community mental health center sites. At the first site, the project is close to completion after two years of implementation. Preliminary results indicate that ER visits and inpatient admissions decreased between baseline and 18 months. However, during this time more individuals gained weight rather than lost weight which suggests a greater need for more intensive weight management of the SMI population. Additional analyses and reports will be forthcoming.
- ◆ **Sponsored a workshop on the *Integration of Mental Health into the Pediatric Practice* at the Florida Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics (FCAAP)** in Orlando, Florida August 29-31, 2014. Speakers included Barbara Howard, MD "*Sleepless Nights—From Cradle to College*," Mariann Suarez, Ph.D. "*Motivational Interviewing of Adolescents*", and Bhagirathy Sahasranaman, MD "*Psychotropic Medications -- Use and Misuse in the Florida Pediatric Population*." The presentation slides are available on our website and at <http://www.fcaap.org/events/Annual-Meeting/2014/annual-meeting.htm>.
- ◆ **The Program continued to monitor the prescribing of antipsychotics and antidepressants in children enrolled in Medicaid.** In Fiscal Year 2013-14, we received a total of 1,402 prior authorization (PA) requests from providers for the following:
  - 1) Antipsychotic use in children under 6 years of age
  - 2) High dose antipsychotic medication
  - 3) Polypharmacy
  - 4) Antidepressant use in children under 6 years of ageThe PA process has resulted in improved prescribing practices and safety monitoring (e.g., lab work, measurement scales, BMI). There has been a 50 percent reduction in the number of PA requests since 2008 and a reduction in psychotherapeutic medication dosages to safer levels. The prescribing of multiple antipsychotics in children less than six is virtually nonexistent in the State.

# Florida Medicaid Drug Therapy Management Program for Behavioral Health, University of South Florida

Summer 2014

## Program Highlights and Updates — Summer 2014 continued

- ◆ **Development of a data mining technique to predict future high utilizers of health care.** Individuals with serious mental illness are often referred to as “high utilizers” or “high cost” because they often have comorbid physical and behavioral health conditions, significant social needs, and have a higher rate of ED visits and inpatient hospitalizations. Using a community mental health center in Region 1 as the test site, we were able to build a model based on data in Year 1 and 2 to predict with 95% accuracy who would be high utilizers in Year 3. This model will be used on a state-wide basis to identify those who will be future high utilizers and develop interventions to address their complex health care needs.
- ◆ The **Messaging on Clozapine Project** was implemented at two community mental health centers to encourage the use of clozapine in the treatment of refractory schizophrenia. The initiative hired and trained Peer Support Specialists who were currently taking clozapine and in recovery to provide one-on-one support and group meetings to individuals who were considering the use of clozapine or had recently begun taking clozapine.
- ◆ The following **guidelines are currently available** on our website at [medicaidmentalhealth.org](http://medicaidmentalhealth.org). Please contact [kaidawn@usf.edu](mailto:kaidawn@usf.edu) if you would like copies mailed to you.
  - *Neurodevelopmental Disorders: Psychotropic Medication Recommendations for Target Symptoms in Youth*
  - *A Summary for Monitoring Physical Health and Side-Effects of Psychiatric Medications in the Severely Mentally Ill Population*
  - *Florida Best Practice Psychotherapeutic Guidelines for Adults*

An Expert Panel meeting will be held in Tampa, Florida in September 2014 to update the *Florida Best Practice Medication Guidelines for Children and Adolescents*. **Copies of the new guidelines will be available December 2014.**

**The Florida Pediatric Psychiatry Hotline** provides free consultation about psychotherapeutic medications for children with behavioral health problems:

**AHCA Areas 1, 2a + 2b, 3a and 3b: 1-877-506-2720**

**AHCA Areas 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8: 1-866-487-9507**

**AHCA Areas 9, 10, and 11: 1-877-486-3783**



FLORIDA  
MEDICAID DRUG  
THERAPY MANAGEMENT  
PROGRAM FOR  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

**Program Staff:** Marie McPherson, MBA, *Director*  
Kai Stauffer LeMasson, PhD, *Assistant Director*

**Visit our website at [medicaidmentalhealth.org](http://medicaidmentalhealth.org) for more information about our programs or contact us at (813) 974-1874.**