New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services

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THE MERGER

Why Merge?

- To become a more user-friendly system for consumers and families
- To become a more user-friendly system for providers
- To bring together and build upon strengths in each system
- To become more efficient
- Timing

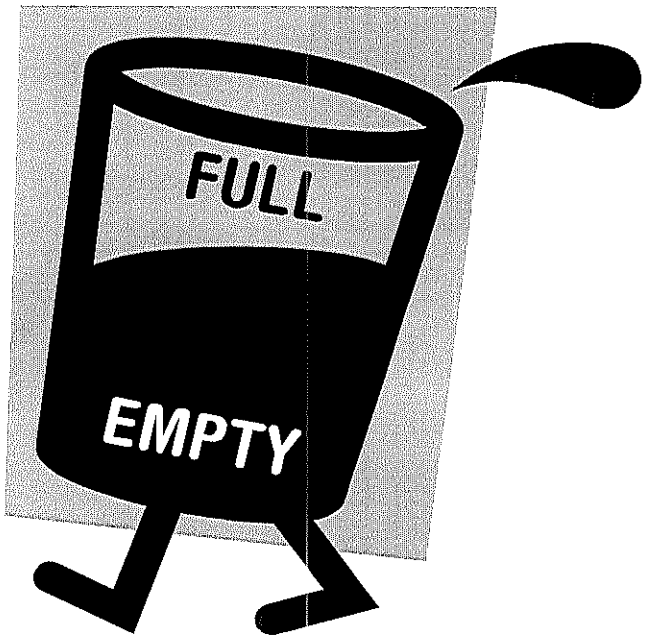
Why Integrate?

- Design a system that provides a continuum of prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery supports for people with substance use, co-occurring and mental health disorders.
- SAMHSA fostering integration
- Health care reform (PPACA)
- Greater likelihood to integrate with primary care
- Improved outcomes for those w co-occurring disorders
- Over ½ of the states have combined in some manner

But, the Addiction Community will lose out.

But, the Mental Health Community will lose out.

What Do We Have to Gain?



Mental Health and Addictions 2010 - 2011

- Recession
- Federal Bureaucracy Silo
- State Bureaucracy Silo
- Provider Silo
- Funding Silo
- Stigma
- No Right Door
- Understanding, designing and implementing the Affordable Care Act

2012 Budget

- States continue to experience the effects of the recession on their budgets
- The 2012 NJ Budget could mean that we experience reductions regardless of the merger
- Administrative efficiencies from merger could save dollars
- There may be changes to funding and funding structures caused by Healthcare Reform that would have happened regardless of the merger

Behavioral Health 2014 and Beyond

- Federal government fosters integration through funding changes
- New partners
- Merged Division decreases silo effect
- Co-occurring Care is integrated
- Behavioral Health integrates with Primary Healthcare
- Funding/Service landscape changes significantly
- HIE and EHR

Potential Outcomes

Consumer outcomes

Provider outcomes

System outcomes

The Process

- Internal Planning
- External Advisory Process
- Redefining Mission/Vision
- Nuts and Bolts

Internal Planning

- Division planning groups
  - Small Leadership Group – Small group from both divisions meet with the Deputy Commissioners Office monthly. This group has been leading and coordinating merger activities.
  - Large Leadership Group – Larger group of staff from both divisions which meets less frequently. This group helped to develop the Mission statement. The group has been becoming familiar with the both systems and individual members working on joint initiatives.
  - Ad-Hoc meeting at Department level regarding integration

External Process

- Technical Assistance funded by CSAT
- Consultant hired to assist NJ in the merger
  - Working with Leadership from the divisions and with the Department on the merger planning

External Advisory Process, cont

- The Merger Advisory Group (MAC)
  - 19 members representing stakeholder groups
  - Meets monthly
  - Have contributed to the Mission statement, the Survey Monkey, the Consumer forums, and some internal collaborations

Survey Monkey

- Questions developed with MAC and internal work group
- Distributed to approximately 500 stakeholder and constituent agencies - approximately 300 responses
- Results to be collected, analyzed, and developed into a report that will be used to inform the merger process
- Report will be available on the website

Consumer Forums

- Suggested by the MAC
- Also a Consumer/Family Survey Monkey developed
- Developed with volunteers from the MAC and Department and Division staff
- To be held across the state to solicit consumer feedback
- Information to be collected and analyzed to inform the merger process
- Report will be available on the website

Redefining Mission and Goals

- **DRAFT** Vision, Mission and Values statement distributed
- Developed with input from the Divisions, the MAC and the Department
- Being reviewed by external groups for their impressions and feedback
- Vicki.Fresolone@dhs.state.nj.us

Nuts and Bolts

- Re posted for Assistant Commissioner of DMHAS
- Moving DAS licensure unit to the Department to merge with DMHS licensure
- Started the work of merging licensure regulations
- One DMHAS Chief Fiscal Officer
- 2012 budget planning has been done as one division
- 2011 Joint Addendum to Federal Block Grant application submitted
- Hiring one DMHAS IT Director
- Monthly joint meetings of DAS and DMHS Executive Management teams
- Website launched
- System Wide collaborations
  - Work with a Foundation to develop a joint project focusing on services integration
  - Preparing for Healthcare Reform's impact on our system

THANK YOU!