



Fact Sheet:



California Outcome Measurement Service for Prevention (CalOMS Prevention)

Background

The Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP), together with other elements of the alcohol and other drug (AOD) service system, are developing a means to systematically account for the performance of prevention and treatment services.

Efforts to plan activities have often been complicated by a lack of accurate, useful and appropriate performance and outcome data policy makers need allocate resources in an optimally effective way. Systematic information about prevention outcomes is needed to effectively evaluate the impact of past prevention efforts and make continuous quality improvements in past strategies and programs. Furthermore, a system of indicators that marks both the need for prevention efforts and their impact on the AOD-related problems is needed for sound prevention policies and optimal funding allocations.

California's efforts to address this need began in the early 1990's with ADP's Prevention Data Initiative. In the Spring of 1997, as a result of the need to assess the effectiveness of federal initiatives, policies and expenditures, the Federal Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) initiated the national Prevention Data Collection and Management Information System project, commonly referred to as the Minimum Data Set (MDS). Initially begun as a pilot program in eleven states, including California, the MDS was found to lack sufficient flexibility to satisfy all California's prevention data requirements.

Therefore, on January 1, 1998, ADP introduced the Prevention Activities Data System (PADS) to track prevention activities throughout the State. PADS was developed to present a more accurate and complete picture of California's prevention activities in a manner consistent with the parameters of the six CSAP strategy areas and the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities grant requirements. However, PADS was not designed to collect data regarding performance outcomes.

"Performance Partnership Grant" to "National Outcome Measures"

In 2002, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced a proposal to change the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant from an emphasis on process requirements, based on compliance and expenditure reports, to one reflecting a performance outcome model.¹ The new model, originally entitled Performance Partnership Grant (PPG), was intended to offer states flexibility in their expenditure of funds while basing accountability on performance. October, 2006, was established by CSAP as the date for all states to submit all required performance data.

Over time, CSAP changed the title of the measures

¹ Federal Register, Vol. 67, No. 247, dated Tuesday, December 24, 2002, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

from PPGs to the National Outcome Measures (NOMs). The significance of the change is CSAP's increased emphasis on establishing uniform national prevention outcome measures rather than linking performance to the State's receipt of the SAPT grant.

CalOMS, an element of CalOMP

ADP's approach to address the new prevention and treatment performance measures has been incorporated into ADP's broader California Outcome Monitoring Program (CalOMP) initiative. CalOMP goes beyond mere data acquisition and examines how data can be applied at the state, county and provider levels for the continuous quality improvement of services.

By contrast, the California Outcome Measurement System (CalOMS) focuses on the narrower issues of designing the data collection methods, both in terms of the data indicators to be established and the technology requirements to convey the information. The objective of CalOMS is to systematically gather data to assist ADP and the counties to: 1) assess the performance of AOD services; 2) use that assessment in guiding improvements in AOD policies, systems and services; and 3) respond to federal reporting requirements.

Through a CalOMS workgroup, the following vision statement was developed and adopted by ADP: *"The Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs and the field use outcome measurement in order to select, deliver and continuously improve prevention and treatment policies, programs, and services."*

Working from the vision statement, six goals were identified:

- Goal #1 Define program-relevant and culturally appropriate prevention and treatment outcome measures reflective of science-based findings and

California's diverse population and communities.

- Goal #2 Develop and implement a comprehensive CalOMS to facilitate prevention and treatment service planning and continuous program improvement at the state, county and provider levels.
- Goal #3 Develop and implement CalOMS data collection and analytic capabilities to meet or exceed the data requirements for the federal PPGs (read: NOMs).
- Goal #4 Develop and implement the processes, practices, standards, and tools that will enable collection of meaningful outcome measures from all state and federally-funded AOD prevention and treatment programs in California.
- Goal #5 Develop and implement statewide training and technical assistance capabilities to assist county and provider prevention and treatment staff in the collection and utilization of outcomes information.
- Goal #6 Annually, use the CalOMS data to establish performance benchmarks to assess the overall quality and performance of the statewide prevention and treatment service delivery.

The Technology System Design

In meeting Goal #3, various alternatives for collecting prevention data were considered by ADP. Although the term **CalOMS**, as defined on page 2, refers to the data collection method for both treatment and prevention, two separate data collection systems were actually needed.

ADP determined that an in-house system, called **CalOMS Treatment**, would be the best alternative to capture treatment data, and a web-based service contracted through a third-party vendor, called **CalOMS Prevention**, would be the best alternative to capture prevention data.

By contracting with a third-party vendor, CalOMS Prevention would: a) be more cost efficient; b) function in a manner similar to the previous Prevention Activities Data System (PADS) in that it would be a web-based service; and, c) not require counties and providers to develop their own system for reporting data – the cost for the service will be borne by ADP.

Differentiating Between CalOMS, CalOMS Treatment and CalOMS Prevention

CalOMS Treatment (California Outcome Measurement *System* for Treatment) collects treatment data from counties which is then reported to SAMHSA. ADP and counties are also able to generate specific reports.

CalOMS Prevention (California Outcome Measurement *Service* for Prevention) is housed by an outside vendor and collects prevention data from counties and providers, which is then reported to SAMHSA. ADP, counties and providers are also able to generate specific reports.

Where We Are Now

KIT Solutions, Inc. was awarded the contract to provide the prevention outcomes data collection service. At the time of contract award, KIT provided a similar service to nine other states. The services developed for these states were used as a foundation for CalOMS Prevention, which was then tailored to meet California's needs.

CalOMS Prevention was designed around the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF). The SPF is comprised of five steps and allows counties to track assessment data, problem statements, goals,

objectives, service activities and progress made toward meeting their goals and objectives. The service went "live" on July 5, 2006. Currently 334 providers (counties included) are registered in CalOMS Prevention.

Where We Are Going

Beginning July 1, 2007, counties will be required to conduct a needs assessment, identify problem statements, goals and objectives, assign providers to engage in services that will ultimately assist the county in meeting their goals and objectives, and report progress toward meeting their goals.

Also included in the next State Fiscal Year (2007/2008) will be the identification of funding sources and additional screens to accommodate the California Friday Night Live Partnership (CFNLP). By identifying funding sources at the program level, counties will be better able to track their budget to the types of services provided. The addition of the CFNLP screens – specifically the County Profile and Chapter Profile – will enable: 1) providers receiving funding for any Friday Night Live program to register their programs via CalOMS Prevention, and 2) the CFNLP to extract data for their reporting requirements.

Additional modifications and enhancements will be made to CalOMS Prevention as clarification on some of the NOMs requirements is received from SAMHSA.

Benefits to ADP and Counties

Over the long-term, data from CalOMS and other sources will be analyzed and reports prepared for counties and communities to assist them in:

- Identifying AOD trends and risks
- Identifying local prevention needs
- Setting priorities
- Allocating resources
- Demonstrating service effectiveness

- Demonstrating cost effectiveness of services
- Identifying ways to continuously improve services
- Identifying effective practices
- Increasing provider, county and state collaboration