



Fact Sheet:



Co-Occurring Disorders

Background

The Governor's Budget Act of 1995-96 mandated the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) and Department of Mental Health (DMH) to actively seek methods to eliminate barriers between the substance abuse and mental health treatment systems at both the state and local levels on behalf of persons with dual diagnoses of serious mental illness and substance use disorders, now called Co-Occurring Disorders (COD).

ADP and DMH established the State Dual Diagnosis Task Force in 1996. The Task Force developed a request for proposal to fund projects to demonstrate effective treatment for persons with COD. The final evaluation report is available. Please contact ADP's Resource Center at 1-800-879-2772, or download the report from ADP's site on the Co-Occurring Joint Action Council (COJAC) website at www.cojac.ca.gov/index.htm.

Co-Occurring Disorders Workgroup

In October 2002 the Directors of ADP and DMH established the Co-Occurring Disorders Workgroup (COD Workgroup) to recommend strategies to improve treatment outcomes for persons with co-occurring disorders. In 2004 the COD Workgroup released its final report that noted target populations along with strategies. This report can be accessed from the COJAC website.

The National Policy Academy

In the fall of 2004 the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) invited California to participate in the National Policy Academy on COD.

In January 2005 representatives from California participated in meetings with members of eight other states to begin to develop a state plan for COD at the national meeting.

California's National Policy Academy members developed and delivered a California State Action Plan to SAMHSA on COD that has been approved. This plan can be accessed from the COJAC website.

The five priority areas of the California State Action Plan for COD are:

- Develop ongoing partnerships on COD.
- Provide ongoing funding analysis, evaluation, and recommendation for COD funding.
- Adopt statewide screening for COD.
- Develop facility, licensing, and certification standards.
- Increase appropriate housing for persons with COD.

Co-Occurring Joint Action Council (COJAC)

In the spring of 2005, a workgroup began meeting to implement the SAMHSA COD State Action Plan. Members of the SAMHSA COD National Policy Academy, the joint association representatives of the County Alcohol and Drug Program Administrators Association of California (CADPAAC), the California Mental Health Directors Association, and others merged into the forum called the COJAC. The COJAC will be adding representation to broaden input and to facilitate moving the action plan forward with the broadest input possible.

COJAC Policy Council and Work Group

A six-member Policy Council and the COJAC is in active partnership with its representative stakeholders. This partnership will implement the State Action Plan to enhance services to persons with co-occurring disorders at the local level.

The Mental Health Services Act of 2004 provides funds for staff of the COD unit within ADP. Staff members support the COJAC and COD activities