

Domain 4: Population-Wide Strategy Implementation

Project ID: 4.a.iii

Project Title: Strengthen Mental Health and Substance Abuse Infrastructure across Systems

Objective:

This project will help to strengthen mental health and substance abuse infrastructure across systems.

Description:

Support collaboration among leaders, professionals, and community members working in mental, emotional and behavioral (MEB) health promotion to address substance abuse and other MEB disorders. MEB health promotion and disorders prevention is a relatively new field, requiring a paradigm shift in approach and perspective. This project will address chronic disease prevention, treatment and recovery, and strengthen infrastructure for MEB health promotion and MEB disorder prevention. Meaningful data and information at the local level, training on quality improvement, evaluation and evidence-based approaches and cross-disciplinary collaborations need to be strengthened.

Performing Providers Systems, schools, PCPs, CBOs, NYCDOHMH and NYC Department of Education (DOE) will work as partners to strengthen the infrastructure that screens, assesses, refers, treats, and manages the care of young people ages 12-25 with mild to moderate mental health and substance abuse (MHSA) needs, as well as those at risk of developing such needs. The Project aims to prevent and reduce mental health conditions, risky substance use and inappropriate use of emergency departments (EDs) by expanding the skills of school-based staff.

Target Patient Population:

This project will target youth ages 12-25 with mental, emotional, and behavioral (MEB) health diagnoses or substance use disorders, as well as those at high risk for developing mental health or substance abuse disorders and who have other health and social factors linked to risky substance use and MEB needs.

Providers Expected to Participate:

Primary care physicians, non-PCP practitioners, clinics, health homes / care management organizations, behavioral health providers, substance abuse treatment providers, pharmacies, community based organizations, and others.

Metrics/Indicators include:

Increased referrals for school-based screenings/assessments

Increased identification of mild- and moderate-severity mental health and substance abuse needs within schools

Increase in quality of referrals to partners community mental health and substance abuse providers

Improved linkages and follow-up for referred cases

Decline in referrals to emergency departments

Decline in school suspensions

Decline in drop-out rates

Decline in 911 calls