

Oklahoma's Block Grant Application and “The Ask”



History of Older Adult Services

The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS) is the Single State Agency in Oklahoma.

Coordinator of Aging and Long Term Care

- Supervised the PASRR (Preadmission Screening and Resident Review) program
- Performed general trainings on aging.
- Served on boards and committees that focused on this population

History of Older Adult Services

Clinical Support Manager

- Responsible for relaying information to treatment providers about clinical services
- Responsible for clinical services trainings for treatment providers
- Strong proponent of individualized, person centered treatment
- Responsible for coordinating and writing the block grant application

History of Older Adult Services within the ODMHSAS

Sadly, our Coordinator of Aging and Long Term Care passed away and the vast majority of the PASSR services were moved to another entity. In the last year and a half, the focus on services to and for older adults has increased exponentially.

WHY?



History of Older Adult Services within the ODMHSAS

Luckily, for Oklahoma, we have a fantastic champion who has tirelessly worked to ensure that older adults are considered as a top priority in access to services and services programming.

Advocacy, such as hers, resulted in the ODMHSAS creating an Aging Division with a full-time Aging Services Project Manager position.

Mental Health Block Grant and Aging Advocacy/Services

- Treatment services are provided to all who seek them, regardless of age
- The Mental Health and Aging Coalition
- Trainings

Block Grant Priority Measures that Focus on Older Adults

- First mention of priority measures (objectives) in 2016-2017.
- At that time, one priority measure that mentioned older adults.
- Number has increased; now at four measures.
- There has been a gradual change in the type of measures. Still have clinical service trainings but are also starting to look at access to services and KNOWLEDGE OF services available.

Block Grant Priority Measures that Focus on Older Adults (FFY22-23)

FY22-23 block grant measures:

- 1) Develop & implement web based training on serving older adults: Number of individuals who have completed the web based training on serving older adults
- 2) Implement the evidence-based practice (EBP) of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) to treat older persons within designated Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs): Number of older adults in CCBHC's who receive CBT.

Block Grant Priority Measures that Focus on Older Adults (FFY22-23)

FY22-23 block grant measures (cont.):

3) Implement the EBP of CBT to treat older adult persons with Substance Use Disorder (SUD):
Number of older adults being treated for a SUD who receive CBT.

4) Promotion of older person's peer specific trainings: Number of persons who become certified Peer Recovery Support Specialists (PRSSs) for older persons (PRSS-OA).

Block Grant Priority Measures that Focus on Older Adults (FFY24-25)

FY24-25 block grant measures:

- 1) Increase the number of people completing ODMHSAS age-informed trainings each year.
- 2) Increase awareness among older adults about the 988 Crisis Care Continuum.
- 3) Increase the number of older adults who receive behavioral health care through CCBHCs.
- 4) Promotion of older person's peer specific trainings: Number of persons who become certified PRSS for older persons. (This was carried over.)

What Topics Could Be Considered for Block Grant Measures?

Examples:

- 1) Crisis/Urgent Recovery Center (URC) admissions
- 2) Housing specifically geared towards older adults
- 3) Wraparound services for older adults

Tips For Requesting Block Grant Priority Measures

“THE ASK”

“The ASK”

(How to come up with Ideas)

- Listen (trainings, news, friends/family/co-workers)
- Network (network with others who are engaged in activities that are already occurring)
- Review Data (look at data that is handy, research areas of interest)

“The ASK”

(What Asks are Appropriate)

- Make sure you are talking to the right agency.
- Give some thought into your ask-the more details, the better.
- Your ask needs to be realistic.

“The ASK”

(How to Ask for Funding)

- Know who to ask
- Be persistent.
- Understand that the program may need to be piloted first.
- Partnerships may need to be established.
- Be able to discuss the pros of the ask and how this will affect the specific groups.
- Attempt to come up with solutions that will either do away with or lessen the cons.
- Do some research in to how much funding will be needed.
- If possible, look to see if there are other funding streams that can be utilized.

“The ASK”

(What Else Do You Need to Bring to the Table?)

- Persistence
- People who will advocate, alongside you, for the ask.

“The ASK”

(Does the Language Used Matter?)

YES!

- Use the appropriate language for the group that you are talking to about the ask.
- Be specific in your ask.
- Even if met with resistance, be professional.

Questions?

Feel free to reach out to me.

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