



Mind Map: Advocacy in Collaborative Partnerships to Increase Mental Health Workforce

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Abstract:

The purpose of the initiative/project/strategy: The purpose of California's Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) Grant is to increase the capacity of the Public Mental/Behavioral Health Workforce by introducing and attracting individuals to various public mental/behavioral health careers across a continuum of learners. Four different pipeline programs will be implemented, each targeting a diverse population including, high school students, community college students, nursing students, and graduate nursing students.

Background and Significance: The prevalence of mental illness is higher among residents living in the San Joaquin Valley community than others in California. While 5.1 percent of Fresno adults have a severe mental illness, and 5.7 percent of Kern County residents, that number increases to 6.9 percent in Kings County and 7 percent in Madera County. Serious emotional disturbance is also the highest among children living in the San Joaquin Valley as documented in Mental Health Care in California: painting a picture. In addition to a high prevalence rate of mental illness, access to a competent mental health clinician is challenging. The San Joaquin Valley is well below the state average for all mental health professions, and there is an urgent need for the development of innovative educational modalities that support shared approaches to care delivery between the professions and across processes and systems.

Methods and Data: The programs include strategies such as career development through career networking, linking behavioral health knowledge and career readiness during advance practice practicum hours, offering financial assistance through stipends, and engaging in outreach activities for local high schools and community college students. Participants voluntarily complete a pre and post survey evaluating general knowledge about behavioral health and interest in behavioral health careers.

Major Outcomes: The hypothesis is that stigma is decreased, and interest is

increased in pursuing behavioral health careers with planned strategies. Conclusions and Implications: Pending until all planned activities have been implemented.