

LACDMH Hosts Ninth Statewide Conference on Integration of Substance Use,
Mental Health and Primary Care Services—A Bridge to Healthcare Reform
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Over 700 people attended the Ninth Statewide Conference on the integration of substance use, mental health and primary care services at the Sheraton Universal Hotel on November 7-8, 2012. The conference explored comprehensive screening, assessment, and treatment for individuals with co-occurring disorders, and highlighted local and national innovative approaches to integrated care. The conference was co-sponsored by LACDMH, UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs, the Pacific Southwest Addiction Technology Transfer Center, California Institute for Mental Health (CiMH) and the COD Conference Planning Committee.

Roderick Shaner, MD, LACDMH Medical Director, kicked off the conference with a warm welcome and introductions. Marvin Southard, DSW, LACDMH Director, spoke about the importance of coordinated care and partnerships. He added that treating the whole person in recovery also means including them in a community, and that “every human needs a sense of giving, not just taking.”



The plenary session featured Ron Manderscheid, PhD, National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors, who discussed the question: Integrating Care Under Health Reform: Where Are We Headed? Dr. Manderscheid stated that he wanted to study best integrated care practices from L.A. County so others across the country could follow suit.

Conference Objectives:

- To identify successful models within existing systems as we move in the direction of service integration under health reform.
- To increase collaboration between Substance Use, Mental Health, and Primary Care agencies serving COD clients.
- To identify emerging best practices that address the complex needs of clients with co morbidities.

The conference provided an important opportunity for policymakers, service providers, administrators, educators, researchers, consumers, families, volunteers, and peers to explore emerging best practices for providing integrated care to those with co-occurring disorders (COD), focusing on the transformation of systems to improve client care. This was achieved by providing many break-out sessions on change and working together to expand collaboration among multiple systems of care, including mental health, alcohol and drug treatment, primary care/health, criminal justice, education, and child welfare.



The presentations, workshop sessions and displays featured in the foyer provided opportunities for conference attendees to interact and network with colleagues and speakers. Conference attendees were able to participate in both experiential and didactic learning workshop sessions.

The 2012 Conference Planning Committee announced that this conference was a 'green event.' All planning and execution efforts were done with mindfulness toward our environment and resource sustainability. Conference planning, marketing, publicity, invitations and registration were created paperless from the start, with this standard at the forefront. Attendees and speakers were strongly encouraged to utilize electronic media for viewing hand-outs and materials, and presentations are available to download.



Thanks to all involved on the Conference Planning Committee, especially John Sheehe, for making the event a big success!