

## *Los Angeles County and Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC)*

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) issued its 2011–2014 Strategic Initiative of Recovery Supports which places a high priority on recovery from substance use disorders. These priorities include promoting individual, program, and system-level approaches that foster health, increase permanent housing, employment, education and other support services, and reduce barriers to recovery. In addition to these changes, a recovery-oriented system of care (ROSC) model has been proposed by SAMHSA (Horgan, 2005). This model advances a coordinated system of recovery that is individual-focused, provides opportunities for links between treatment and community supports, and improves individuals' quality of life. ROSC has four primary goals: to prevent substance use disorder (SUD) from developing, to intervene early in SUD careers, to improve SUD treatment outcomes, and to support sustained recovery efforts of individuals, families, and communities.

With health care changes on the horizon, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health–Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) developed a 2011-2016 Strategic Plan which incorporates recovery orientation and recovery supports services. As with any system transformation, L.A. County's transition to ROSC will be faced with both unique challenges and opportunities. These challenges include coordinating change throughout the system – finding ways for recovery communities, systems administrators, and service providers to effectively communicate in new ways while piecing together funding sources to cover the various types of recovery support services.

However, there are a growing number of opportunities to establish collaborative recovery oriented projects with other service sectors, as more organizations are attempting to improve long-term outcomes. For example, the Home for Good initiative, headed by United Way Los Angeles, funds permanent housing and ancillary supportive services for chronically homeless individuals. The funders recognize what studies have shown – that per individual, permanent housing saves 40% in health care, criminal justice and other costs when compared to those who remain homeless. This is an example of the opportunities that exist for integrating housing, mental health, employment, and other supportive services with ROSC and SUD services to maximize long-term outcomes for individuals and system-wide cost savings.

SAPC hopes to develop a coordinated system of recovery that is individual-focused, provides opportunities for links between treatment and community supports, and improves individuals' quality of life for all L.A. residents.

#### Sources:

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