

County of Los Angeles – Department of Public Health Public Health Innovation Award

Congratulations to the Antelope Valley Rehabilitation Center (AVRC) on receiving the 2011 Public Health Innovation Award! Each year the Department of Public Health recognizes departments and agencies that demonstrate creative, out-of-the-box program planning and the team efforts that increase efficiency and productivity with the Innovation Award.

Background: Over the past year the AVRC has engaged in a number of projects to implement new approaches to Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment. The overarching goals were to increase access and coordination of care for substance use disorder treatment, mental health, and physical health services. The SUD program goals were to: increase engagement, retention, and positive compliance; improve service delivery to meet the goals of a “good” and “modern” system of care; and to provide a full range of high quality services to meet the range of age, gender, cultural and other needs presented. For these goals to be met, the AVRC decided a complete transformation of the existing SUD program was needed. They built upon existing program strengths by adding evidence-based practices (EBP) into the treatment program curriculum and with additional activities including:

Ongoing Training

On-going trainings for clinical staff through UCLA-Integrated Substance Abuse Programs (ISAP), Social Model Recovery Systems Inc., Matrix Institute on Addictions, and the Alcohol and Drug Policy Institute (ADPI) to increase their knowledge and skills. The Matrix Model curriculum, CBT, MBCBT, and 12-Step Facilitation along with the Department of Mental Health’s (DMH) Life Skills Support Group Curriculum, have been added to the female and male programs.

Performance Management

Performance Measurement provided by the Los Angeles County Evaluation System (LACES), through the Los Angeles County Participant Reporting System (LACPRS). The AVRC has improved access time to services, decreased hospitalizations, enhanced the quality of care through increased engagement and retention of the patients it serves while also decreasing critical incidents. Positive compliance increased from 76.4 percent to 92 percent. Average days in treatment and 30 day engagement have also increased.

Telepsychiatry

As featured in the December 2011 LACES Newsletter, since April 2011 the AVRC has partnered with UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs (ISAP) to provide Telepsychiatry services for in-patient substance use disorder clients. To date, 65 unique clients have been seen. As a result of the low-cost formulary and increased medication management, more patients are now able to incorporate psychotropic medications in their treatment.

Vivitrol

Vivitrol has figured more prominently in the treatment of clients at AVRC over the past few months. Those clients who present to treatment for either primary or secondary alcohol or opiate use have the option to volunteer to take Vivitrol – a mu opioid antagonist which helps to control cravings. Recent evaluation results indicate that those who take Vivitrol have better outcomes when compared to the county average.

Again, congratulations to the AVRC for this honor and their continued dedication to SUD treatment in Los Angeles County.