Texas DMIE

Texas Department of State Health Services
Current Reality

• 28 percent of working adult Texans are uninsured

• Uninsured Texans with disabilities turn to federal programs for help when they become unemployed.

• This increases federal costs and erodes the local tax base which supports health care.

• 250,000 working age Texans with disabilities receive SSI (average of $412/ mo per person in 2005)

• 380,000 Texas workers with disabilities receive SSDI (average of $924/mo in 2005)

• 345,500 working age Texans with disabilities were on Medicaid in 2007. Expenditures were $3.5 billion. (In Harris County 48,600 cost $375.5 million)
Texas DMIE

• A model which can work in states where county governments address the health needs of low income workers

• Largest study population among DMIE projects (over 1600 participants)

• Randomized controlled trial

• Intervention group receives enhanced medical and vocational services
Current Texas Site: Houston
State / Local Partnership

Harris County Hospital District
- Develop/ operate DMIE Health System
- Provide match for Medicaid-like services

State
- Oversight
- Federal Liaison
- Manage Project

UT Austin
- Conduct independent evaluation
- DMIE data system
- Recruitment
Who’s in Texas DMIE?

- Adults (21 – 60) with disabling conditions
  - **Severe mental illness** (schizophrenia, bi-polar disorder, major depression) – **12%**, or
  - **Major physical conditions** (e.g., diabetes, heart disease, MS, etc.) **PLUS** a behavioral health illness (depression, etc.) – **88%**
- **Low income** – 90% are below 200% poverty, 60% are below 100% poverty
- Limitations in performing daily living tasks (40%)
- A **strong** desire to continue working (80-90%)
- Part or full-time jobs (20% are health care workers)
- At **significant** risk of dependence (over 400 candidates applied for disability before they could be recruited into the study)
Supporting Wellness

• Health services (physician, hospital, etc.)

• Enhanced health services
  – Prescription medicine
  – Enhanced psychological and neuropsychological assessments
  – Improved access to outpatient mental health services (expedited office or outpatient visits)
  – Chemical dependency treatment services
  – Expanded Durable Medical Equipment
  – Preventative and restorative dental treatment
Supporting Independence

• Individual planning addressing life and health issues
• Advocacy, direct services, motivational interviewing, coordination and intervention
• Assistance in connecting to other community resources
• Employment/Vocational supports including:
  – Vocational Assessment/Evaluation
  – Collaboration with an Employer
  – Vocational Support Groups
  – Collaboration with Family/Friends
  – Vocational Treatment Planning/Career Development
  – Vocational Counseling
How It’s Working

- Linking workers to vital health care services
- Providing help to gain, keep, improve employment
- Building upon local systems of care by better coordinating existing resources

- Hundreds are now getting help. Success stories include:
  - Mental health care and employer education result in secure and stable job for formerly suicidal person
  - Orthopedic shoes, health and job counseling allow a severe diabetic to keep working
  - Health counseling, career planning result in full-time job for formerly unemployed person with multiple physical/mental disabilities
Texas plans to extend / expand DMIE, should extension be included in the federal budget

- Continue Houston project through 2012
- Add second site - Bexar County (San Antonio) – important to determine if success can be replicated in Texas

For more information contact:
Dena Stoner, State Project Director
(512) 206-4851
dena.stoner@dshs.state.tx.us