

within the state prisons to develop and coordinate discharge planning for those offenders with serious mental illness. This new funding will also support the implementation of four “Intensive Care Coordination Teams (ICCTs)” (two in Tulsa and Two in the OKC area) who will be responsible for engaging with the offender/consumer prior to discharge and then working with them in the community until they are fully engaged in the appropriate level of community based mental health services.

One of the many benefits of having ODMHSAS integrated treatment discharge planners operating in DOC facilities is that information sharing becomes much simpler. Traditionally, the flow of specific mental health information between mental health and corrections agencies has been slow and cumbersome. The new ODMHSAS-funded discharge planners will have the unique ability to access records from ODMHSAS’ data system in addition to having access to DOC mental health records and data (a signed data sharing agreement will be in place). This shared information will help with discharge planners to make the appropriate referrals for the continuation of mental health services post-discharge.

Another interagency initiative began in 2004, when the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) contracted with Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (MPR) to help the state of Oklahoma design, implement, and evaluate an program to ensure that adults with mental illness have health insurance coverage on the day they are discharged from Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMDs) and correctional facilities. In 2004, the executive leadership of DOC, ODMHSAS, DHS and the OHCA met to support the SAMHSA project. Since 2004, representatives of these agencies continue to meet to develop a program that will enable discharging offenders/consumers with serious mental illnesses, and who are eligible for federal benefits, obtain the benefit approval prior to discharge so that they can be bridged to community based mental health services without the need to apply once discharged.

In fiscal year 2006, DOC discharged approximately 8000 offenders to probation/parole supervision and directly to the street without supervision. Based on the mental health levels classification system, it is estimated that approximately 1000 of those 8000 discharged have a serious mental illness. To effectively prioritize the discharge planning efforts, DOC utilizes the DOC Mental Health Service Levels Classification System discussed above.

This new interagency cooperation and coordination has continued to expand under the Federal Transformation Grant that is managed by the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services via the newly created Innovation Center. The ultimate goal of that project is to capitalize on progress already achieved in Oklahoma for providing seamless mental health service delivery.