

Board Report- SAMHSA MISSION Program

Shandra Stewart, BS, MISSION Mental Health CM, Allegan County Homeless Assistance Programs
269-673-3384, ext. 2779; sstewart@accmhs.org

MISSION, a five year SAMHSA funded program, has served 32 individuals in its first two years. The goal of MISSION focuses on the integration of homeless and behavioral health services for persons with SUD or SUD with co-occurring SMI and experiencing homelessness. The majority of those entering the program are living on the streets or outdoors (56%). Another portion are living in a shelter (16%), institution (9%) or housed (19%) at the time of intake. Tri-morbid (mental health, substance use and physical health) conditions have been identified in 44%, indicating the needs of a complex population. Service utilization is closely monitored by program staff. On average, MISSION participants receive 16 sessions of case management, 13 impact services (benefits assistance, housing search assistance, basic needs, food pantries, household goods, advocacy, clothing, furniture, etc.), 12 sessions of general peer support, 10 sessions of peer led counseling and 6 sessions of dual recovery therapy.

Program staff and the evaluation team review and discuss MISSION outcomes. A GPRA assessment is required by SAMHSA at intake, 6 months and discharge. Clinical staff additionally complete the Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (SPDAT or F-SPDAT for family) at intake, at least every six months and at discharge. Key measures from the GPRA assessment show positive outcomes in housing status with the majority housed by 6 months, increases in monthly income and higher self-report of health. Review of assessment data over time, demonstrates improvement in both the Family and Individual SPDAT from intake to discharge. Change in the domain scores of the SPDAT assessment also show improvement in Wellness, Risks, Socializing & Daily Functioning and the Family Unit ([see MISSION Outcomes Dashboard](#)). Progress reports are shared with the client, areas of improvement and decline are discussed and successes are celebrated. MISSION is excited to see the positive impact of this evidence-based practice on the lives of those served. The COVID pandemic and our agency's adherence to mitigation measures negatively impacted our ability to engage a larger number of individuals. Over the next year, we hope to improve the lives of another 20 individuals.

Program success

Success can be one's own personal measure of what that looks like, well at least that's what I believe. It may look different for everyone making it a unique experience, having a different perspective of what success should be offers flexibility in outcomes. Our drive is to meet clients where they are and through person-centered planning allow them to drive their goals and objectives. Although, priority for many of our clients is housing, some of them also aspire to obtain their driver's license, GED, an emotional support dog, attend life skill classes or even purchase their own vehicle. Whatever the objective we adhere to being the support and advocate the client needs.

This year we had a client who actually discharged from the program after successfully fulfilling program requirements, however within 3 months she was back seeking our services. Some, might see that as a program fail but for us and her we see that as program win. She came back because she trusted us and honestly for this client trust means everything which we worked hard with her to develop. On her own, she recognized there were some new challenges and with the expansion of our program changing from 12 months to 24 months such request was granted. During her time with MISSION she has been able to secure and maintain housing for a little over a year also, able to acknowledge and understand her limitations with maintaining employment. She's applied critical thinking to challenging moments, utilized her crisis plan as intended, explored some of her hobbies such as candle-making, writing poetry and journaling and taken the initiative to enroll herself in parenting and life skills classes. Completion of probation without incidence, utilized community resources, fostered positive friendships and even now exploring attending college to become a social worker or at most open her own shelter that helps single moms! Currently, enrolled in MISSION services we will continue to support her goals and encourage sobriety and mental health stability.

Program struggles

Overall, our program is doing well, however there are a few areas for improvement such as the report states regarding securing adequate enrollment to meet our grant requirements of 20 individuals per year. With that being said, Shandra (MISSION intern) developed and created a flyer that has been distributed both internally and externally to staff and community members ([see MISSION flyer](#)). The hope is to attract and collaborate with staff, agencies, healthcare institutions or community members for an efficient coordinated entry process. We recognized an internal issue as it relates to the process of referrals from point of entry to case assignments so as a measure to reduce repeat or misinformed information this flyer was created to be used as a quick reference tool and reminder.