



CA/LOCUS Study Findings

By Amy Krahn & Patrick Miles, Ph.D.

In 2003, we adopted the use of the LOCUS and CALOCUS as a key part of our assessment and clinical planning process. After a review of many competing instruments, we chose the CA/LOCUS because it had been devised in work with youth and adults with serious mental illness, and because it included information on key clinical factors that were omitted from other tools. We hoped that the CA/LOCUS would help us ensure clients received services based upon their clinical need. We also hoped that it would help individual clinicians make treatment decisions about their clients and to manage resources effectively.

In an initial study of the CA/LOCUS we found the interrater reliability to be very strong for the total scale score and each of the sub-scales (See Heads Up, July 2004).

Despite initial, favorable findings, many clinicians raised questions concerning the reliability of the tool as it was being used in everyday clinical practice. As a result, QI conducted a study this summer on the reliability and validity of the CA/LOCUS as it is used in our system.

In this study, we sampled 26 clinicians from the youth and adult systems, all of whom had worked four years or more in our system. Participants were given 3 fictional vignettes and asked to score the CA/LOCUS. In addition, they used the vignettes to develop a treatment plan for each client by indicating the type and amount of mental health services the client would need to receive in the next year. Finally, 16 of the original participants took part in a follow-up survey that asked about how they use the CA/LOCUS in their practice. The results of the study were as follows:

Is the CA/LOCUS reliable?

- Consistent with the earlier study, we found strong inter-rater reliability for CA/LOCUS scores
- We found that clinicians are able to use CA/LOCUS scores to distinguish between clients with low, medium, and high mental health service needs
- We found general agreement between average CA/LOCUS total scores and benchmark score for 50% of the vignettes

Did CA/LOCUS scores predict estimated treatment service hours?

- We found that CA/LOCUS scores did not predict estimated client treatment plan hours of service. However, this lack of validity was primarily due to the lack of agreement between clinicians about how much service clients needed. In fact, the estimated hours of service ranged from 50 hours to well over 1000 hours for most clients.
- In contrast to CA/LOCUS scores, we also found that clinicians' estimated treatment plans did not discriminate between clients with low, medium, and high mental health service needs.

Do clinicians find the CA/LOCUS helpful?

- We found most clinicians felt the CA/LOCUS helps them assess clients' mental health need and track clients' progress over time.
- We found that many clinicians would like to learn more about how CA/LOCUS scores are used by our system.

The CA/LOCUS study also helped to identify some common scoring problems on some of the sub-scales.

In conclusion, the CA/LOCUS was found to be a reliable tool that is used consistently by clinicians in our system.

(Continued on page 6)

From the Director's Desk by Gale Bataille, MSW

Mental Health Services Act update:

Our 500-pound gorilla—whoops, I mean the 500 page Mental Health Services Act proposal, was approved unanimously by the Board of Supervisors on November 15 and sent to the State Department of Mental Health on November 16. We are on a timeline to have the proposal approved by February. With no real pause for celebration, we are now in the final stages of completing Requests for Proposal for key initiatives and services. The staffing request for County positions will go to the Board of Supervisors in January. This month's HeadsUP insert provides a summary of initiatives and funding. In addition to direct service initiatives we are developing:

- A three-year system initiative that will improve our capacity to identify, engage, treat and provide relapse prevention for individuals with co-occurring drug/alcohol

and mental health disorders. This program will be jointly funded through the MHSA and the Substance Abuse Division of the Human Services Agency and will support effective practices among County and community agencies—drug/alcohol and mental health. (Those of you who attended the Seeking Safety training are also aware of the compounding effects of trauma/violence and co-occurring disorders)

- A housing RFP is being designed in collaboration with the new Department of Housing and the Human Services Agency's Shelter Services (Office of Housing) to insure access to 90 housing units for high need clients. This MHSA partnership will be one of the early projects of the County's HOPE Initiative (program to end homelessness in 10 years.)
- A program to recruit, orient and

provide on the job training and support for over 20 consumers and family members hired through the MHSA.

As we expand services and funding, it is critical that we function as an integrated system of care. To this end, we have made a commitment to our agency partners that staff recruitment, community outreach, internship program training and staff training initiatives will be available to all partners and designed for system-wide impact.

Brown Bag Lunches—I am again scheduling monthly brown bag lunches: No formal agenda but an opportunity to discuss your concerns/questions...the first two will be 20th Ave in January & North County in February

Community outreach: The Mental Health Board held its November meeting in East Palo Alto. EPA Counseling Center staff described their services and welcomed the over 50 community members who came to discuss their community needs—especially with the impact of gang violence, a growing countywide problem. EPA residents advocated for increased access to mental health services and offered to work with Mental Health Services to organize a community “convening” to identify next steps. The Mental Health Board has made a commitment to continue to reach out to San Mateo communities. Future meetings are planned for Daly City and Half Moon Bay.

Cultural competence: Mental Health is developing cultural competence initiatives with our diverse communities. One of the first MHSA related events was a seminar

(Continued on page 4)

Medical Library Resources

By Mark Constantz, Medical Librarian, & Julie Pearce, RN, MS

Mental Health shares the services of the SMMC Medical Library and the expertise of longtime Medical Librarian Mark Constantz. There are several resources which mental health staff may find useful at

<http://intranet.co.sanmateo.ca.us/smmc/library/index.html>

PsychiatryOnline is under the Codes section and includes DSM, journals, textbooks and guidelines.

Epocrates is a wonderful resource for prescription drugs and includes the Health Plan of San Mateo Formulary. It is located in the Medical Resources section.

Krames patient brochures are located under Patient Resources and include mental health topics in English and

Spanish.

Please check out the many other resources at

<http://intranet.co.sanmateo.ca.us/smmc/library/index.html>



Bienvenido☆Mabuhay☆
Felicidades
Welcome &
Congratulations

Michelle Alvarez-Campos, MSW, joined the Hillcrest Functional Family Therapy team.

Nancy Cooper, MFT, joined the Partners for Safe & Healthy Children Program (0-5).

Bridget Kenevan, Hillcrest, passed the license exam and is now a MFT.

Meg Lyskawa, RN, BSN, joined the North County Adult Team.

Aurora Pena, joined the Hillcrest Team.

Craig Schlab, PhD, is contracting to help clinicians document adult assessment services.

Patrick Sutton, MSW, MA, is the new Reimbursement & Finance Manager. In addition to having recent experience in health care administration and finance, he was a social worker in various mental health clinical settings.

Tiffany Totah, MFTi, is a new Extra Help staff member for the PROP South & Aftercare Programs at Hillcrest.



NAMI San Mateo County

New Address

1650 Borel Place, Suite 130
San Mateo, CA 94403

Mateo Lodge Celebration A Great Success

The 30th Anniversary Party for Mateo Lodge, Inc., held November 11th, included dinner, dancing and a silent auction for over 250 people.

Beverly Abbott and Ian Adamson were honored for outstanding service.



JOB WELL DONE

Thanks to all the **Administrative Assistants** and **Peer Outcome Assistants** who worked very hard to help clients participate in the state outcomes survey! They were also very quick to send in completed forms. We expect to have more completions than we had in the May survey and will report results when available. Many thanks to all for your support and help!

Suggestions, comments & articles welcome.

Julie Pearce, Editor

JPearce@co.sanmateo.ca.us
650.573.3913

Pamela Machado, Assistant Editor

PMachado@co.sanmateo.ca.us
650.573.2544

Congratulations

Leafa Taumoepeau, Administrative Secretary for Central County, was honored at the Cultural Competency Summit XIII held recently in Fresno. Leafa received the statewide “Cultural Competency Service Action Award” for her community work and cultural competency services.



Births

Ellie Artale, Hillcrest, recently had a baby boy—Joseph John.



Becky Arrendondo, Child Welfare team, delivered her 2nd baby—Gavin Anthony.



Moving

Lori Durand, Program Specialist, is moving from the Wraparound Team to the Partners for Safe & Healthy Children, the 0-5 child abuse treatment program.

Terri Jones, MFT, moved from Interface/FSST to the South County Adult Team.

(Continued from page 2)

on November 19 regarding the mental health needs of Pacific Islanders—among the most underserved populations in the County. Speakers included Supervisor Rose Gibson, Sheriff Don Horsley, Chief Probation Officer Loren Buddress and the Samoan Ambassador to the United Nations. The seminar also produced recommendations that we will explore over coming months.

Some of you may participate in a **Linguistic Access Study** sponsored by the Health Services Department. This study will produce critical information about the language needs of our clients, and availability of resources to provide linguistically accessible care.

POST HOLIDAY CHEER—look for an announcement of a staff party in the near future. Rather than adding another event to this already hectic season, the management team will be planning a celebration for all in January/February.

CYOC Community Service Project

Led by **Tim Holechek**, COYC staff worked with youth in the DBT group to address "Contribution" and "Community Service" as part of "self-help" and "self regulation" skills development. The youth decided to work with a local Senior Home to develop a joint activity. Based on input with the staff at the home, the COYC youth and several staff went to this home in October and conducted a "Bingo Night" activity for the seniors. In addition to facilitating the activity and spending social time with the seniors, the youth made jewelry and other crafts to use as awards in the game. By all reports the event went very well and the senior home staff asked Tim to make this an ongoing event. The youth are very excited by this feedback and COYC is scheduled for activities in November and December.

Thanks Tim, for your clinical creativity and leadership in developing this idea and thanks to COYC staff and youth for making it happen!

Q TIP FOR QUALITY

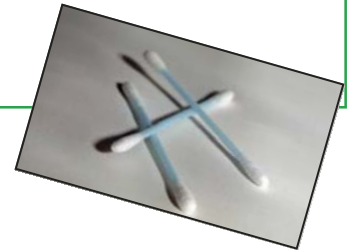
Keep Your License Current

Licensed/registered and waived staff are responsible for maintaining, or upgrading, their qualification for clinical work. QI tracks expirations and renewals. Verification on the internet is often delayed for two-three weeks; the BBSE no longer verifies the status of renewals on the phone. Therefore, renew well ahead of time so that your work assignment is not disrupted. (See MH Policies 98-16 and 99-04 for reference information.)

Reminder about Self/Team Referrals

MH Policy 93-12, Client Referrals, addresses the potential for an ethical conflict of interest when clients are referred to/from staff member private practices. The policy outlines procedures for referrals from private practice to System of Care and from System of Care to private providers.

To summarize, whenever possible a client will be given a choice of three or more private providers. Mental Health & County policy directs staff to avoid any potential conflict of interest, appearance of conflict or private gain through referral to private practice or private business. A staff member already treating a client/family cannot refer to him/herself, or to a team member, unless there is a clear clinical benefit for the client that is verified, approved and signed (on the policy's attachment, Request for Self/Team Referral form) by the clinician's supervisor, clinical manager and by the mental health director. Please review MH Policy 93-12, Client Referrals, whenever you consider making a referral to/from your, or your team member's, private practice.



Mental Health Responds to Hurricane Disaster

Several members of Mental Health's Community Response Team volunteered to work a half-day shift at the Red Cross Service Center in San Francisco helping evacuees from Hurricane Katrina.



Educational Opportunities

Follow-Up Consultation Sessions Implementing 'Seeking Safety' Therapy for PTSD & Substance Abuse

By Martha Schmitz, Ph.D.

Wednesday, January 4

400 Harbor Blvd. Belmont—Harvard Rm
11-12:30

Wednesday, February 1

400 Harbor Blvd. Belmont—Harvard Rm
11-12:30

Wednesday, March 1

400 Harbor Blvd. Belmont—Harvard Rm
11-12:30

Sign up now for all sessions!

RSVP—Glenda Masis 650.573.2860

GMasis@co.sanmateo.ca.us

1.5 hrs CEU's available

Community Rehabilitation Meeting

Thurs., January 26—Pot Luck Breakfast

8:30-10am

3080 La Selva SM

RSVP 573.2320

Coming Soon – Women's Support Group

A Self-Help Women's Support Group will begin in January and meet monthly at the South County clinic. Alison Mills, Kim Nobles, Sarah Poynter and Chris Coppola will coordinate the initial meetings, open without charge to all women. The goal is for the group to be consumer-run and consumer-led and to keep women's issues in the forefront. One plan is to conduct a survey about recovery and develop better availability and utilization of trauma services. Flyers with more details will come out in early January.

Supper Club

Wed., January 18

5-7:30pm

2415 University Avenue

East Palo Alto



Save the Date

Supper Club for Transitional Age Youth

(Ages 16-24)

Thurs., February 23

4:30-6:30pm

3080 La Selva

San Mateo

For reservations, call

Kim Nobles 650.573.2320

GRAND ROUNDS

December 6—Mills-Peninsula

1783 El Camino Real Burlingame

Sierra Rm

12:15-1:45

Consequence of Losing Our Mind in the Era of the Brain

Marshall Greene, MD

December 13—Mental Health

225 37th Avenue SM, Rm 100

12:15-1:30

Psychotherapy with Recent Immigrants

Masha Mednikov, PhD

December 20—Mills- Peninsula

1783 El Camino Real Burlingame

Sierra Rm

12:15-1:45

No Meeting

December 27—Mental Health

225 37th Avenue SM, Rm 100

12:15-1:30

No Meeting

Mental Health Inservice

Developmental Differences in Adolescents

Toni DeMarco, MFT

Wed. December 14

8:30-10:30

Hillcrest -Orange Room

Just drop in—No RSVP





**MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
SAN MATEO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

225 - 37th Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403

Phone: 650.573.2541
Fax: 650.573.2841
Email: jpearce@co.sanmateo.ca.us

*Promoting wellness & providing
public mental health services*

Info at your fingertips
www.networkofcare.org

*County of San Mateo
Mental Health Board
Presents the
Consumer Hall of Fame
2005
Honorees*

Theresa Bassett	Susan Bowen
Frances Corral	Gayle Cronin
Linford Gayle	Chris Hoover
Alison Mills	Gilbert Rodriguez

Mental Health Services congratulates the 2005 honorees.

*(Continued from page 1)
CA/Locus Study Findings*

Because the tool is reliable and able to discriminate between clients with different levels of need, clinicians can feel confident using CA/LOCUS scores as important, clinically descriptive data when talking about a case with a colleague. Given its reliability, we think treatment teams can begin to consider CA/LOCUS scores when making treatment planning decisions about their clients.

QI wishes to thank all of you for participating in this study. Please contact Pat at 573-2491 if you would like further information about the results of this study or if you would like a copy of the final study.



December 1, 2005

Dear HeadsUp Readers:

On November 15th, the Board of Supervisors approved San Mateo's Mental Health Services Act proposal, and a few days later, we shipped copies of it up to the State in boxes. Within days, State staffers started to call with their questions, and it appears they are well into their panel review process of our proposal. We will participate in an interview with State reviewers on January 11th, and expect to receive approval in February. While the State reviewers are just getting their toes wet in our proposal, we have moved on to writing requests for proposals and implementation planning.

We thought you would be interested in seeing a summary of how the Mental Health Services funds are proposed to be used along with Medi-Cal and other third party revenues to fund the new initiatives in the MHSA proposal. See the reverse side of this sheet for the distribution of funding years 1-3, and the one-time funding across the 8 initiatives.

Louise Rogers
Deputy Director of Operations