



Rider 58, 83rd Legislature Fiscal Year 2014 DSHS Report

Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Rider 58 (2014-15 General Appropriations Act, S.B. 1, 83rd Legislature, Regular Session, 2013), requires DSHS to report its efforts, planned or implemented, to improve the measurement, collection, and reporting of behavioral health client outcome data to the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) and the Governor each year of the biennium.

Background

The Texas State Government Effectiveness and Efficiency Report issued in January 2011 included a comparison of behavioral health data across NorthSTAR and other selected service delivery areas. The comparison indicated that the state cannot determine NorthSTAR's overall effectiveness relative to the rest of the state. Recommendations from this report were as follows:

1. Include a Rider in the 2012-13 General Appropriations Act that would require DSHS to improve the measurement, collection, and reporting of behavioral health client outcome data.
2. Include a Rider in the 2012-13 General Appropriations Act that would direct DSHS to submit a report on efforts, planned or implemented, to improve the measurement, collection, and reporting of behavioral health outcome data by December 1st of each year of the biennium.
3. Include a Rider in the 2012-13 General Appropriations Act that would direct DSHS in consultation with Health and Human Services Commission, to conduct a comparative analysis of publicly funded behavioral health systems in Texas that serve the medically indigent and Medicaid clients. A report would be submitted on the findings to the LBB and the Governor by December 1, 2012.

These recommendations were accepted and included in 2012-13 General Appropriations Act, H.B. 1, 82nd Legislature, Regular Session, 2011 (Article II, Department of State Health Services, Rider 65). After evaluating options, DSHS identified the need for new assessment instruments. In order to allow sufficient time to employ the new instruments, train staff, and collect sufficient data, DSHS received approval to submit the final comparative analysis on December 1, 2014.

Implementation

DSHS has implemented new assessment tools for both children and adults in order to improve the accuracy of client outcome data. The new child and adolescent tool is the *Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths* (CANS). The adult tool is the *Adults Needs*

and Strengths Assessment (ANSA). Behavioral health outcome data will be improved in the following ways:

1. The new tools are validated, used nationally, and will yield a reliable change index outcome measure.
2. The new tools will provide greater assessment detail and include the individual's needs and strengths.
3. Standardized training will be required for all clinicians who will administer the new assessments. All clinicians who provide the new assessment will be required to have ongoing certification.

In addition, DSHS and providers have updated their information technology (IT) systems and implemented new processes that support direct data entry and data exchange between providers and DSHS for the CANS and ANSA.

Milestones Completed in Fiscal Year 2012

1. Pilot implementation of the CANS and ANSA, including
 - a. training and certification of staff at pilot sites, and
 - b. data collection from early pilot sites.
2. Development of business rules and sorting rules for levels of care.
3. Testing of CANS and ANSA administration tools.

Milestones Completed in Fiscal Year 2013 and Fiscal Year 2014

1. Testing and release of the CANS and ANSA Uniform Assessment code.
2. Revisions to state and local IT systems to support direct data entry and data exchange between providers and DSHS for the CANS and ANSA.
3. Testing and implementation of the data exchange systems for the CANS and ANSA.
4. CANS and ANSA training and certification for 4,721 provider staff.
5. Regional CANS and ANSA "super user" trainings to develop local subject matter experts to provide technical assistance and support at the local level; 113 individuals have completed the training.
6. Implementation of the CANS and ANSA with clients.
7. Development of standardized reports in the DSHS data warehouse to calculate outcome measures.

Upcoming Milestones

1. Periodic CANS and ANSA training and certification for new staff.
2. Data collection (September 2013 through August 2014).
3. Development of comparative analysis framework (July 1, 2014).
4. Data analysis (October through November 2014).

The final report will be provided to the Texas Legislature by December 1, 2014.