

ARCA Mental Health Collaborative Project Blueprint



<p>Step 1</p>	<p>Engage Stakeholders</p>	<p>The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) represents the network of 21 non-profit regional centers that coordinate services for, and advocate on behalf of, California's over 300,000 people with developmental disabilities. Because of their broad representation of all 21 regional centers across California, CVRC partnered with ARCA to implement the MHSA grant. During the first year of the project, the Forensic Task Force was developed as a transition from the MI/DD Task Force in order to maintain a specific focus on individuals with ID/DD and possible co-occurring mental health diagnoses who became judicially involved and was set to meet quarterly. There was a need to get a high level perspective on the statewide systemic issues. The Forensic Task force included representatives from various parts of the state and included public defenders, regional center forensic specialists, clinical staff and legal counsel, county behavioral health, district attorneys, staff from the Department of Developmental Services, advocacy organizations. Through an open invitation the Task Force would sometimes have guests from the legislature and the legislative analysts' office visit. The information gathered in other grant activities was taken back to the Task Force for review and recommendations. Later surveys, regional meetings and statewide forums also provided the opportunity for stakeholder input.</p>
<p>Step 2</p>	<p>Data Collection</p>	<p>November 2014 – November 2015 Gathered contact information for primary regional center contacts for forensic issues, developed an online survey and distributed to regional center contacts regarding forensic cases as well as competency training and trainers. Due to the difficulty in capturing complete information on the more intricate issues, regional meetings were selected as the venue rather than another survey with regional centers. Regional meetings of regional center forensic specialists were held in order to have a more complete dialogue regarding challenges and concerns. Based upon the data and the feedback of the regional centers it was determined that it would be beneficial to conduct forensic forums and provided direction for the content of the forums.</p>
<p>Step 3</p>	<p>Curriculum Development & Forum Planning</p>	<p>February 2015 through December 2015, worked with a consultant to develop a training curriculum for professionals to gain the skills to provide competency. The consultant also had to obtain permission from the developers of the curricula being taught. With the goal of expanding capacity, five 2-day training sessions were provided with the ability for professionals to access the consultant for technical assistance as needed. The training plan was developed to include presentations by forensic psychologists, public defenders/private attorneys, and LA County juvenile probation. Through information gathering it appeared that many of the existing competency trainers did not fully understand the court process, how competency training and the reports fit into this process, and how to utilize the court evaluator's report as a baseline for their lesson plans which was the rationale for the additional presentations during the training sessions. Probation also provided the additional perspectives for the training of juveniles caught up within the juvenile justice system. During this same time, <i>service</i></p>



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		<p>standards were developed in conjunction with regional centers to provide guidelines for the qualifications of competency trainers.</p> <p>February 2015 through April 2017 planning occurred for the forensic forums. The forums were developed to provide a venue for regional center staff involved with the criminal justice system to network with other regional centers, outside community agencies, DDS, etc., to share best practices and problem-solve. There are often conferences that provide new information but the hope for the forums was to mix some exposure to presentations by individuals and agencies working on issues of the judicially involved clients as a jumping off point and then to take that information and everyone's own experience and knowledge back to the tables for discussion. In hopes of trying to better identify the issues and concerns and to try to find some solutions or at least beginning steps. There were questions, facilitators and scribes at the tables to capture the discussions. Each table was pre-assigned to allow for representation by various agencies, geographic areas and expertise to generate more comprehensive discussion.</p>
<p>Step 4</p>	<p>Recruit & Select Participants For Training & Forums</p>	<p>From October 2015 through June 2017 regional centers reached out to potential competency training providers. ARCA provided follow up to those providers or agencies who demonstrated interest to give them a more complete understanding of training.</p> <p>The forensic forum invitations were generated by regional centers reaching out to mental health providers, law enforcement, advocacy agencies, court professionals, etc. The first forum, June 2015, was open to everyone. Based upon the information received it was decided that the second annual forum, April 2016, would only be participants from the regional centers as there appeared to be a great deal of work that regional centers needed to focus on to move forward with the services and supports that were crucial to them doing their jobs. The final forum, February 2017, was again open to all interested individuals.</p>
<p>Step 5</p>	<p>Training Program & Forensic Forums</p>	<p>December 2015 was the first competency training session and the last June 2017. There were 3 training sessions in northern California and two in southern California. It was offered to all regional centers. Overall there were 34 individuals representing 20 agencies who completed the training across the state. Additionally there were 16 regional center staff persons representing 11 regional centers who completed the training. The regional center representatives were either the forensic specialists or community services staff. The regional centers wanted a fuller understanding of the methodology for competency training, expectations for the trainers, allowing for better oversight of the provided services. These trainings were directly responsive to the professional development needs and the concerns of the courts, attorneys and regional centers which was discovered through the survey, regional meetings, and publicized court cases. The trainings were one of the attempts to address the long jail stays and unresolved court cases for individuals with intellectual disabilities. The training materials are being</p>



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		<p>posted on the website. Additionally all regional centers were given copies of all of the materials from the training sessions.</p> <p>The forensic forums focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Navigating the court systems ❖ Multi-system Collaboration ❖ Services and Supports ❖ Within these primary areas of focus the participants were asked to determine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What's working/what's not • Challenges/barriers • Identification of best practices • Future considerations • Recommendations for innovative solutions <p>Each forum built on the results of the previous one so that there was movement forward. Attempts were made to see what changes had occurred, resources developed, conflicts resolved since the prior forum. The information collected at the forums was summarized and posted for participants and other interested parties. These summaries were taken to the Task Force for further discussion and development. The content of these summaries also guided the content for the subsequent forum and the identification of potential speakers.</p>
Step 6	Evaluation	Both the competency training sessions and the forums included evaluations and the results were tabulated and used for the purpose of adjusting the format and content as needed to provide maximize the experience for the participants.
Step 7	Collection of Best Practices from Regional Centers & Development of Online Resource Library	<p>The regional center forensic specialists have developed a network allowing them to share training materials, court report formats, and other resources.</p> <p>During the course of the grant various journal articles, studies, white papers, training material, etc. and links to organizations with additional information have been collected to be posted on the ARCA website. This was an effort to make some of the information more readily available.</p>

