SUMMARY

Spokane County Community Services, Housing, and Community Development Department, Regional Support Network and Substance Abuse program are currently seeking information from current providers and/or joint collaborations related to the development and implementation of an Adult Psychiatric Hospital Diversion Program with the intention of reducing inpatient bed usage in Spokane County and increasing the quality of life for people suffering from acute mental illness.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Spokane County Regional Support Network (SCRSN) is allocated a certain number of inpatient beds each day for long-term psychiatric inpatient treatment at Eastern State Hospital. The county currently exceeds the allocated amount by 11-12 beds per day costing the SCRSN penalties for each bed over our amount. This puts a strain on the county mental health system and leaves very little room for continuous improvement and innovative programming in the mental health system. SCRSN is seeking new, creative, innovative, and cost effective program ideas to help keep people who suffer from mental illness out of the hospital and in the community. This RFI project is intended to help keep people out of inpatient placement with a new and innovative service program/practice OR an expansion and revision of a current program or practice. It is the hope of SCRSN that the program will identify and serve people who are at high risk for hospitalization, high utilizers of mental health services, chronically mentally ill and/or those with co-occurring disorders. Special consideration will be given to program ideas that are co-occurring in nature and are or will be dually certified/licensed by DASA and MHD. SCRSN would like to have the project implemented as close to January 1, 2009 as possible. The agency housing the project must be prepared upon implementation to submit data within the current SCRSN MIS system, and if it is a co-occurring program, the agency MUST be dually certified and have the ability to submit applicable data to Raintree and Target data systems.

SCRSN has a maximum of $550,000 available for this project. $370,000 of the available amount will be Medicaid funds and $180,000 will be non-Medicaid. There may be additional funding from the Substance Abuse program for co-occurring programs.

PROGRAM DESIGN SUMMARY: Please complete all of the following:

1. Please provide a very detailed description of your innovative program idea designed to keep adults out of inpatient level of care and concentrating on the populations described above.
   a. Is your program an evidenced-based or promising practice, if so please describe?
   b. Is this service new or an expansion of a current program? If it is an expansion of a current program, how will it differ from what is being offered now?
c. Do you have data to support the efficacy of this model?

d. If the model is a joint collaboration, please describe each entities role and identify a lead or point agency. It should be noted that SCRSN will only contract with the agency identified as the lead.

e. What staffing levels are required to implement this program?

2. How do you intend to recruit and hire in a timely manner?

3. If nursing or Chemical Dependency Providers were required, how would you address shortfalls in available nurses and/or CDPs in the community?

4. How soon could your program be fully staffed?

5. How many people will this program serve on a monthly/annual basis?

6. How many people do you feel this program could divert from initial hospitalization?

7. How would your program reach potential consumers? Does your current program have a working relationship with Crisis Services and/or Sacred Heart Medical Center?

8. Besides hospital diversion, what other clinical outcomes could SCRSN expect?

9. Describe why your organization is interested in providing hospital diversion services.

10. Describe your qualifications and experience to provide hospital diversion services.

11. Do you believe you could submit data within the current SCRSN MIS system upon implementation?

12. If the program is a co-occurring program, does your agency hold full licensure by Mental Health Division and certification by the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse? Is the Agency prepared to enter data into Target?

GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS:

- All inquiries shall be directed to:
  - Jessica Ahrens, Mental Health Systems Administrator
    Spokane County Regional Support Network
    Spokane County Community Services, Housing, and Community Development Department
    312 West 8th Avenue, Spokane, WA 99204
    Phone: (509) 477-4515
    Fax: (509) 477-6827
    Email: jahrens@spokanecounty.org

- Proposals must be received no later than November 17, 2008
- Proposal Submittal Requirements: In order for a proposal to be considered, the applicant must adhere to guidelines and instructions that are stated in this proposal instruction document.
- Eligible Organizations must be located in Spokane County, must be licensed to provide mental health services or have the ability to become licensed, and must be free of any correction notice or action by SCRSN and/or DSHS.
- Available Funding: The SCRSN has a maximum of $550,000. The Substance Abuse program may have an additional amount of funding for co-occurring services.
- Recruitment Announcement Revisions: The SCRSN may find it necessary to seek clarification from applicants regarding any of the responses submitted. The SCRSN may, at its discretion, request that applicants submit additional information in order to permit a more informed evaluation of the application.
- Property of the SCRSN: Any application submitted becomes the property of the SCRSN and will not be returned to the applicant.
• Submittal Rejection: SCRSN reserves the right to reject any or all applications, portions, or parts thereof, and to waive all minor irregularities.
• Agencies must be in good standing with SCRSN, Spokane County Substance Abuse program, DSHS Mental Health Division, and the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse. Recent monitoring for clinical and financial requirements must be complete and have no substantial findings.

HOW TO APPLY:

• Provide two hard copies of the entire proposal.
• Use standard 8.5 x 11 white paper.
• Use 12-point font, black ink, double-spaced narratives with one-inch margins.
• Print your organization name as a header on all pages of the proposal.
• Insert page numbers at the bottom of each page.
• Staple each proposal, original and copy, in the upper left-hand corner.
• Proposals may be emailed in addition to hard copies. Email to jahrens@spokanecounty.org
• There are no restrictions for minimum or maximum number of pages.
• Unnecessarily elaborate responses beyond that sufficient to present a complete and effective response are not desired.
• Proposal applications that are incomplete or do not follow the guidelines described in the “General Information and Requirements” and “How to Apply” sections will not be considered. All questions must be answered.
• This recruitment announcement can be found in the Mental Health Index on the Spokane County Community Services, Housing, and Community Development Department’s website at: www.spokanecounty.org/mentalhealth.