Behavioral Health Center of Excellence Study Group Guide

Overview

What is a Behavioral Health Center of Excellence (BHCOE)? We don’t know yet. It hasn’t been defined. To address this, the National Council for Behavioral Health has begun a six-month crowdsourcing project to develop a definition, identify key elements, explore relevant metrics, and begin working with members across the country to field test and refine these ideas.

What is crowdsourcing? (noun): To obtain input into a particular project by enlisting the services of a large group of people, typically via the Internet. Crowdsourcing channels the experts’ desire to solve a problem and then freely sharing the answer with everyone.

How Can You Get Involved in the BHCOE Crowdsourcing Initiative?

Between December 2013 and April 2014, the following activities will occur to support this national dialog:

- **Mid-December kickoff roundtable webinar** — Behavioral Health Centers of Excellence and the Future of Health. Watch the recording of the December 11 webinar and download the PowerPoint slides.
- **Mid-December release of the BHCOE draft concept paper** — Download a copy of the paper.
- **Biweekly blog posts** to stimulate the national dialog — Find all posts to-date by visiting the National Council’s Conference365 blog.
- **Stay tuned** for webinars in February and April 2014.
- **Attend the 2014 National Council Conference** May 5-7, in Washington, DC.

How You Can Make the Most Out of the BHCOE Crowdsourcing Initiative?

Study groups are organizing around the country to use the BHCOE crowdsourcing initiative to:

- **Educate themselves** about how to succeed in the new healthcare ecosystem;
- **Help define** a BHCOE and identify the key elements and metrics;
- **Identify gaps** in their own organizations;

And then use the above to create local learning collaboratives that focus on closing identified gaps.

Study Group Guide Suggestions

**Step 1:** **Identify the study group members:** Identify a small or large group of like-minded people who want to use the BHCOE crowdsourcing initiative to up their game.
Step 2: **Develop a format for the study group:** Will you meet in person? Will it be possible for folks to join by phone or webinar? It will probably make sense to have a facilitator and recorder for each meeting; will that rotate or be the same people every time? Who will be responsible for creating a draft agenda for each meeting? Will everyone be expected to do “homework” outside the study group?

Step 3: **Set a regular meeting time:** Consider setting a schedule that coincides with the National Council blog post and webinar schedule. The schedule for these events (as of December 2013) includes:

- December 2013: Kick-off webinar, Blog post #1 and #2, White Paper released
- Tuesday, January 7, 2014: Blog Post #3
- Tuesday, January 21, 2014: Blog Post #4
- Tuesday, February 4, 2014: Blog Post #5
- Tuesday, February 18, 2014: Blog Post #6
- Tuesday, March 4, 2014: Blog Post #7
- Tuesday, March 18, 2014: Blog Post #8
- Tuesday, April 1, 2014: Blog Post #9
- Tuesday, April 15, 2014: Blog Post #10
- Tuesday, April 29, 2014: Blog Post #11

Step 4: **Create an agenda for each meeting:** Because each blog post will end with a set of “Today’s Questions,” we’d recommend the following format for each study group meeting:

- **Build/edit the agenda** (either based on the blog post or a related BHCOE idea)
- **Brief presentation** on the main topic for the day; if it’s the blog post, someone could summarize the post and wrap some context around it (e.g., how does the current blog post fit into the larger crowdsourcing project?)
- **Discussion of today’s questions** from the blog post or relevant questions for the main topic of the day
- **What’s happening on the ground** that’s relevant to the main topic?
- **What are people reading** that’s relevant to the main topic?
- **What homework** should we assign to ourselves?
- **What’s our next meeting time?**
- **Meeting evaluation and adjourn**

Step 5: **Meet, speak, deliberate, have fun**

Step 6: **Decide spin-off projects to create:** This could be in the form of a self-assessment process; research on outcome measures that would adopted across the group; a formal learning collaborative; etc.