

Potential Learning Edges/Areas of Focus for Innovation

What challenging mental health issues exist in Stanislaus County that could be addressed through an innovative approach?

If we knew we could successfully address a challenge, within 5 years, what learning question(s) would we propose as the focus of an Innovation project?

1. **Issue:** Connecting people receiving services to community-based supports

Learning questions: How can people providing services encourage people receiving services to connect with community-based supports that focus on their interests, passions, and strengths instead of their symptoms, illness or diagnosis?

Does making these connections to community-based supports improve the experience of recovery and decrease the length of time and intensity of needed treatment?

2. **Issue:** Honoring and identifying more holistic approaches to well-being

Learning questions: What will help clinicians and other service providers become more open and receptive to more holistic approaches to well-being?

What will help clinicians and other service providers become more able to link their clients to appropriate information and support for more holistic approaches to well-being?

3. **Issue:** Improving the well-being of children, Transition Age Youth (TAY) and Transition Age Young Adults (TAYA).

Learning questions: Does strengthening developmental assets at an early age (ages 2 and up) help children in underserved areas improve their ability to thrive in stressful life circumstances?

Do strengthening developmental assets for TAY and TAYA in underserved areas improve their ability to thrive in stressful life circumstances?

How can social networking technology be used to create support for and promote the well-being of TAY and TAYA?

4. **Issue:** Treatment options for people struggling with both substance abuse and mental illness.

Learning questions: Can adopting a “harm reduction” treatment strategy for substance abuse issues help improve the overall effectiveness of treatment for people with mental illness and substance abuse

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Learning Question:

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