



# Gaps in the Behavioral Health Care System for Adults in the Omaha Region

In 2014, the Behavioral Health Support Foundation sponsored an assessment of the adult mental health system in the Omaha region which identified nine major gaps. OTOC asks that you identify which of the gaps you or a loved has experienced or you have witnessed others experience in the past 24 months.

***Place a number 1 to 5 next to each gap which you experienced or witnessed. Rank the severity of the problems which the gap caused, with 1 being VERY SEVERE and 5 being a MINOR INCONVENIENCE. Write ("NA"-does not apply) next to any gap that you did not experience or witness.***

## **\_\_\_ Gap 1: Fragmentation and a lack of comprehensive system collaboration**

"Fragmentation and isolation between existing services"—"an over-arching gap"

## **\_\_\_ Gap 2: Insufficient access to care**

"Not-for-profits are maxed out and inundated with referrals;" "wait times are far too long"

## **\_\_\_ Gap 3: Insufficient availability of integrated care for co-occurring disorder services and services to people with complex needs**

This area "lacks widespread capability to treat both co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders or co-occurring behavioral health and physical health conditions."

## **\_\_\_ Gap 4: Insufficient availability of intensive community-based services**

"Intensive support often is necessary for those being discharged from inpatient units or who are trying to avoid admission to inpatient care. " "Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams... have proven to be effective for some of the most difficult to serve people." There is one existing team but there may be a need for 2 more teams in the area.

## **\_\_\_ Gap 5: Insufficient availability of Supported Employment**

Nationally, 90% of people with serious mental illness are unemployed but 50% want to work. Work "with Nebraska's vocational rehabilitation authorities and Region 6 providers to increase the availability of Supported Employment services."

## **\_\_\_ Gap 6: Lack of a comprehensive psychiatric emergency system (PES)**

"Lasting Hope Recovery Center in Omaha has an Assessment Center for patients with behavioral health issues but cannot always provide adequate care for people who have co-occurring medical problems, such as complications from diabetes or other chronic conditions, or acute medical emergencies. " Develop solutions to expand capacity in area.

## **\_\_\_ Gap 7: Insufficient resources & supports to help people find an appropriate place to live**

There is a need for more Permanent-Supportive Housing (PSH) in Region 6, which also lacks long-term, semi-permanent residential alternatives for those who have complex mental health, substance use, and physical health challenges, and who need a level of care between Telecare (an intensive residential services provider) and intensive outpatient services.

**Please return this survey: to an OTOC leader, by regular mail, or scan & email it.**

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