**APPLIED RESEARCH AND EVALUATION (ARE) UNIT LOCUS/CALOCUS**

**UTILIZATION AND REPORTING PLAN**

**BACKGROUND AND STATEMENT OF NEED**

The Level of Care Utilization System (LOCUS) for adults and the Child and Adolescent Level of Care Utilization System (CALOCUS) for children and adolescents are tools designed to create a level of care recommendation based on a multi-dimensional functional assessment of individual consumers. The LOCUS/CALOCUS provides a framework for determining the appropriate nature and intensity of services and resources to meet consumer needs. Moreover, the tool is well suited for monitoring outcomes, informing the development of treatment plans and determining program needs.

The DMH has adopted the LOCUS and CALOCUS as the methods for evaluating consumer functioning. Policy 300.1 dated April 28, 2005 mandated use of the LOCUS and CALOCUS by all MHRS, specialty, and sub-specialty service providers within the DMH network. A web-based version of the LOCUS/CALOCUS system was launched at the beginning of FY10, allowing for system-level compliance monitoring, generation of consumer assessment profiles and development of a variety of canned and customized reports. The transition to a new system has generated the need to provide on-going support to agencies on how to access the system, as well as how to help agencies utilize the reports for a host of clinical and administrative functions. The Applied Research and Evaluation (ARE) Unit has developed a strategy to help facilitate agency-level compliance in transitioning to the new system, and accessing, analyzing and using data for quality improvement purposes. The strategies include education, resource development and coaching on utilization of the LOCUS/CALOCUS as a clinical and administrative decision-support tool, as well as the mining, analyses and reporting of data. Ongoing support will be provided to address barriers to utilization and to refine the system to meet the needs of direct service providers and agency and system-level leadership. Goals of the technical assistance strategy include:

* Increasing provider access to and compliance in using the web-based LOCUS/CALOCUS system, through
	+ Targeted provider identification and outreach;
	+ Liaison with LOCUS/CALOCUS stakeholders to address barriers and modifications to the web-based system.
* Increasing knowledge and utilization of LOCUS/CALOCUS for use in clinical decision-making, outcomes monitoring and quality improvement activities, through
	+ Education and coaching support;
	+ Resource development;
	+ Data analyses, reporting and dissemination activities.
* Evaluate and review the success of LOCUS/CALOCUS technical support, data analyses and reporting for internal quality improvement purposes.

As of October 2010, ARE has begun implementation of this strategy, and is coordinating its efforts with the DMH Office of Accountability (OA) in an effort to support the roll-out of its FY11 quality initiative. This initiative will monitor specific use of the LOCUS/CALOCUS for use in treatment planning. If you are interested in receiving the support described above, please contact Dr. Angela Shuttlesworth, Applied Research and Evaluation (ARE) Unit Manager, at angela.shuttlesworth@dc.gov.