EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES AND PROGRAMS - ADULTS

Why Are We Funding Evidence-Based Practices and Programs?

It is now well documented that knowledge gained through research has, in many instances, not been translated to everyday clinical practice in the mental health field.

> A wide variety of effective, community-based services, carefully refined through years of research, exist for even the most severe mental illnesses yet are not being translated into community settings. Numerous explanations for the gap between what is known from research and what is practiced beg for innovative strategies to bridge it. (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Mental Health: A Report of the U.S. Surgeon General – Executive Summary*, 1999, p. 20-21.)

> A huge gap exists between what we know about treating mental illness and the availability of treatments, services and programs that are so vital to recovery. (Quote from Laurie Flynn, NAMI Executive Director. *Visions of Hope and Recovery: NAMI 21st Anniversary Commemorative booklet and Annual Report*, p. 1.)

What are Evidence-Based Practices and Programs?

The Foundation uses the standards set by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in identifying a model as evidence-based and defines it as follows: a practice that has demonstrated positive results in at least two randomized control studies or in a large series of single-case experiments.

What Is The Goal of This Program?

The goal of this program is to expand the availability of effective community-based treatment practices and programs relating to mental health conditions. The Foundation awards two-year grants ranging from $50,000 to $100,000 per year to governmental agencies and non-profit organizations that provide behavioral health care and services in southeast Michigan (Wayne, Macomb, Oakland or Washtenaw) to implement and evaluate proven practices and programs that improve both the delivery of behavioral health services and treatment outcomes for adults 21 years and older.