

# Newsletter



August, 2006

## **Alliance for Children and Families and Behavioral Pathway Systems Announce National Benchmarking Initiative**

The Alliance for Children and Families and Behavioral Pathway Systems have partnered to establish a benchmarking initiative in the child and family services arena. The Alliance for Children and Families is a 300 plus member organization representing child and family-serving and economic empowerment organizations in the United States and Canada. The Alliance was formed by the 1998 merger of Family Service America and the National Association of Homes and Services for Children. Discussions are also underway to involve the Axelson Center for Nonprofit Management at North Park University in Chicago as an additional collaborator. Behavioral Pathway Systems is particularly excited about this relationship since it expands its involvement into the broader human services arena.

The Alliance is an active and influential advocate in the realm of children and family services. The Alliance leadership expects to use the information gleaned from the benchmarking initiative in its advocacy and educational work. Also, participating members will be provided with individualized comparative benchmarking reports. Finally, organizational improvement will be pursued through process benchmarking and other venues.

## **JCAHO Tests New Core Measures for Inpatient Behavioral Health**

JCAHO has selected five candidate core measures for hospital-based, inpatient psychiatric settings. Tests involving these measures will soon commence. The five measures are: (1) assessment of potential risks, previous trauma, co-existence of substance abuse, and patient strengths; (2) restraint use; (3) seclusion use; (4) patient discharge on multiple antipsychotic medications; and, (5) provision of discharge assessment and aftercare recommendations to responsible community health providers upon discharge. Volunteer hospitals are being sought to test these measures for a one year period beginning January, 2007. The final set of measures will be submitted to the National Quality Forum for review and endorsement. The final set of measures is expected to be implemented in the fall of 2008.

## **BPS Enhances Technology Platform**

Fusion Alliance, an innovative leader in its field, has been engaged to assist in enhancing the BPS technology infrastructure. Fusion Alliance brings a wealth of experience, advanced tools, and broad resources to its role with BPS. This represents a significant investment in technical reliability and effectiveness. A variety of benefits are expected to accrue from this relationship.

## **Contact Us!**

We want to create an active and vibrant community of individuals and organizations interested in benchmarking, performance management, and outcomes. If you have thoughts, ideas, suggestions, tips, or questions, we'd like to hear from you. Please feel free to contact us at [info@bpsys.org](mailto:info@bpsys.org).

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