

Boston University: Biannual Summary

1. Reporting Period: February 1, 2015 to July 31, 2015
2. RFA Number: TI024733
3. Project Director: Dr. Jordana Muroff

Program at a Glance

What are the current technologies being utilized by the grantee?

The *Smartphone Technology to Reduce Relapse Among Latinos with Mental Health and Substance Abuse Disorders* project is a partnership between Boston University School of Social Work and a local substance abuse treatment provider, Casa Esperanza. The project utilizes the University of Wisconsin's Addiction Comprehensive Health Enhancement Support System (A-CHESS) smartphone mobile application modified for Spanish speakers and with an additional medication adherence module (referred to as CASA CHESS). The goal is to provide 40 smartphones to clients each year for the 3-year period. A case manager and peer specialist are available to provide around the clock support.

Are there any notable changes this reporting period?

The team has worked to create bilingual training documents for staff/clients.

A client focus group was scheduled to discuss project processes; however, no clients participated. Client engagement may be an issue.

BU noted challenges meeting their established intake target goal stating, *"We have been considering other sources of clients, including outpatient clients who are not enrolled in the residential treatment program and CASA CHESS."*

BU noted challenges with meeting their established follow-up goal as a result of clients going off the grid due to relapse. The team is working with client case managers to complete interviews whenever possible.

BU's project model, which includes randomizing client groups into those who participate in CASA CHESS and those who serve as a control, has not worked as smoothly as expected. Program leaders determined that the cohorts need to be separated over long periods of time to avoid issues among the "haves" vs. the "have nots." BU is working on a strategy to establish a comparison group.

What are the grantee's GPRA rates?			
	Target	Actual	Percent
Intakes (Baseline)	80	68	85 percent
6-Month Followup	44	37	84 percent
If intake or followup is below 80 percent, has the grantee described its plan to increase GPRA rates?			
<p>Compared to BU's report from the same period in 2014, intake and follow-up figures have decreased.</p> <p>Despite the challenges identified with intake and follow-up, BU appears to have met and exceeded the 80 percent target threshold. The grantee is exploring strategies to enhance client recruitment by reaching out to other programs. They are also working with case managers to enhance client follow-up among those who have relapsed.</p>			
Does the grantee need technical assistance? If yes, does the grantee have a request in SAIS?			
<p>BU did not express immediate need for technical assistance at this time; however, the proposed sustainability site visit would be an ideal opportunity to explore client engagement and follow-up strategies and to get more information on the grantee's overall sustainability plan and general lessons-learned.</p>			
Are there any areas of concern in the report that require GPO attention?			
<p>There are no concerns identified at this time.</p>			