



APAA

Association of Persons Affected by Addiction

11/13/2014

Sandy Simpson /Recovery Coach
sandysimpson@apaarecovery.org

214 634-2722

The Association of Persons Affected by Addiction (APAA) is leading a Recovery Community Support Organization that encourages and support personal recovery by offering peer to peer assistance in providing community services that help support recover, reduce relapse, and promote high-level wellness in individuals, their families and the community . APAA has been a NorthStar Peer Provider since 2007. With the NorthStar, APAA is providing peer recovery support and services in the Psychiatric Hospital for those with a co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders, in treatment programs, and NorthStar has APAA, the only National Accreditation Peer Recovery Support Services organization in Texas and one of five in the Nation. We are honored to be part of NorthStar and the Value Options Network.

NorthSTAR was designed with 3 core principles, practices for providers and peer supporters:

1. Separation of the roles of authority and provider
2. Choice of providers for members INCLUDING PEER PROVIDERS – APAA – Peer Recovery Community Support Services. Able to serve seven counties.
3. Open access—no wait lists

Despite severe funding challenges, the stakeholder community has clearly indicated during the years of the program that it wants to **preserve open access**. NorthSTAR served circa 70K unduplicated individuals in SFY 2013, which represented about 1/3 of the persons served by public sector mental health programs in the entire state.

NorthSTAR was designed to focus on the needs of the individuals who receive services and has proven to be flexible and adaptive when presented with challenges. A strong network of providers has been maintained throughout the 15 years of the program. Providers have also proven to be flexible and adaptive and have cut administrative costs far below those of most community mental health centers.

The newly implemented (September 1, 2014) MCO managed “carved-in” services of Mental Health Rehabilitative Services and Targeted Case Management have not resulted in an expanded network such as NorthSTAR.



APAA

**Association of Persons
Affected by Addiction**

11/13/2014

Further, the MCO is not required to expand the provider network beyond the licensed provider types currently enrolled in Medicaid. This means providers such as Peer Providers (PP), Family Partners (FP), Community Services Specialists (CSSP), and Qualified Mental Health Professionals for Community Services (QMHP-CS)[i] are excluded from independently joining the network. The result is a “business as usual” network of providers that looks exactly like the prior Carved-Out LMHA and Community Center model for Mental Health Rehabilitative Services and Targeted Case Management services.