The RECOVERY CASE MANAGEMENT (RCM) project is proposed as an enhancement of the effectiveness of the Rapides Parish Drug Court located in a rural area of central Louisiana. The enhancement strategies are to add case management, recovery planning and recovery support services, screening for co-occurring psychiatric disorders, and training for integrated psychiatric and substance use disorder treatment and case management services.

The present drug court program serves an adult population which is 75% male, 27% African American, 73% Caucasian, and 0% other. The average age is 25. Most of the clients are in drug court due to a drug driven charge. 22% do not have a high school diploma or equivalent, and 15% are on psychotropic medications. This drug court has been in operation for 10 years and is jointly funded by the Louisiana Supreme Court and the Louisiana Office for Addictive Disorders. This harmonious collaboration has enabled implementation of a good safety net for medical and psychiatric care as needed, as well as for a range of substance use disorder treatment modalities as required in addition to the outpatient treatment provided to all drug court clients. In spite of the successful development of this program, there are some service gaps that hinder achievement of the full potential of the program in maximizing long-term recovery and successful community functioning of their clients.

The system gaps include 1) a lack of case management to facilitate communication between treatment services and court administration, 2) lack of recovery support services to help overcome recovery barriers and to help build recovery strengths, 3) lack of a program focus on long-term recovery including the development of a long-term recovery plan, and 4) lack of screening of all clients for psychiatric disorders and lack of case management skills and counseling skills for integrated services for clients with co-occurring psychiatric and substance use disorders.

The RCM project will address these needs by the following activities:
1. Employ case managers to facilitate client management and drug court communications,
2. Conduct screening of all clients for psychiatric disorders using the M.I.N.I, an instrument that can be administered by current program staff.
3. Train case managers and counselors in the integration of psychiatric and substance use disorder treatment and case management.
4. Provide access to individualized recovery support services.
5. Train of case managers in recovery planning and matching clients recovery needs with recovery support resources to enhance progress with their recovery plan.

Approximately 192 drug court clients will be enrolled in the enhancement project in the first year, an additional 48 clients will be added in year two, and another 40 clients in year three for an unduplicated total number of 192 clients served during the total project period.