

Children's Mental Health Prop 63 Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)

Status of Community Planning Process

5/19/05

Review of Planning Structure & Approach

- Building on our longstanding **Children's Interagency System of Care** collaborative, we have initiated a needs assessment and planning process that reflects key System of Care partnerships:

⇒ **Children's System of Care Steering Committee** (which includes leadership from Probation, Social Services, Substance Abuse, Education, as well as Children's contractors, Cultural Competence and Family Partnership staff. This committee serves as the primary leadership group for the Children's Mental Health Services Act (Prop 63) process and recommendations.

⇒ **Link to larger Mental Health Stakeholder Process and MH Administration** for overall outreach and planning coordination.

⇒ **Children's MH Prop 63 Subcommittees** were organized by the primary "Gates" into service, also reflecting our core partnerships:

- **Probation Subcommittee**
- **Social Services Subcommittee**
- **Education Subcommittee**
- **Community "Gate" Subcommittee**

⇒ We made a conscious decision to integrate **Substance Abuse, Cultural Competence, and Family Partnership** staff and needs assessment across these four subcommittees—as well as focus on **0-5 Population and Transition-age Youth**. However, in addition to this integration, we engaged in additional **focus group** sessions with **families & youth**:

Our **Family Partnership Program (FPP)** was contracted with to conduct specialized outreach to families and youth:

- **FPP** staff conducted 5 family focus groups in Santa Cruz and Watsonville for in-depth interview and discussion with 20 participants (11 Spanish speaking, 9 English speaking)
- **Subcontracts with five youth-serving organizations** to conduct in-depth sessions with youth. Organizations included **Y-CORE, Los Puente's Program, Youth Services, Pajaro Valley Prevention & Student Assistance (PVPSA), and Live Oak Family Resource Center**. Participants included 47 youth (22 females, 25 males).

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- In addition, we utilized a parallel **Youth/Education outreach study** conducted by Michael Flaxman (Youth Advocate and Reclaiming Futures Intern from the University of California, Santa Cruz) that interviewed 86 youth in 8 focus groups at 7 school sites. This was done as a part of our participation in the **Robert Wood Johnson Reclaiming Futures project** focusing on our local Probation, Substance Abuse, Mental Health collaboration.
- ⇒ We made a conscious decision that our **Prop 63 Mental Health Services Act planning process, incorporate the parallel, complimentary reform processes** occurring in our public agency partnerships. This was done by including identified areas of need already identified key strategies into the work of the applicable Prop 63 Subcommittees:
- **Probation:** Needs assessment and planning conducted in alignment with important juvenile justice reform efforts: **Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ), Disproportionate Minority Confinement (DMC), and Detention Reform**—and new **California Endowment Grant** focus on improved health/mental health screening, referral and linkage from Juvenile Hall
 - **Social Services:** Needs assessment and planning conducted in alignment with **Child Welfare Redesign** efforts, including focus on increased Mental Health interface and Differential Response planning
 - **Substance Abuse:** Needs assessment and planning conducted in alignment with our **Robert Wood Johnson Reclaiming Futures** system redesign grant focusing on improved integration of Substance Abuse with Probation and Mental Health outcomes
 - **First Five Commission's** ongoing work to improve comprehensive supports (including Mental Health services) to families with young children aged 0-5
- ⇒ **Specialized Community/Education Outreach** conducted to key groups and collaborative in the Prop 63 planning process:
- **Children's Network (SB 997 Council)**, which includes the largest array of child/family serving community members, contract agencies, public agency representatives (including Juvenile Court Judge, District Attorney, Sheriff, Housing Authority, etc.)
 - **Special Education Directors/SELPA** and the **County Office of Education** who are most responsible for student identification of counseling and related needs.