

MHSA Status Updates and Highlights

2/7/07

The first phase of MHSA funding is focused on enhancing community support services for adults with serious mental illness and children/youth with severe emotional disturbance.

For adults the major services being implemented include:

- Enhanced crisis diversion/step-down from acute care capacity at Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center's "Center for Hope and Healing" with 10 beds.
- Increased consumer, peer and family services including start up of Wellness centers in North County at MHCAN and in South County at Mariposa.
- Increase of community support services including peer supports, supportive housing, and supportive employment/education. "Family Advocate for Adults" to start in March, 2007.
- Enhanced person-centered mental health services including creation of an older adult services team, increased bilingual capacity in homeless outreach services to South County, and increased bilingual and service capacity in the jail discharge services, the Transition team and the South County adult team. Renovation of jail-based services site. Added capacity to serve transition age youth and older adults at Opal, Darwin and Drake House.

For children the major services being implemented include:

- Enhanced access for parents seeking help for their children via the "Community Gate" including increased service capacity with bilingual staff for South County, as improved bilingual dual diagnosis mental health and substance abuse treatment by contract agencies Youth Services and Family Services.
- Increased support for children, parents and teachers at the "Education Gate" with additional county and contract staff, including bilingual capacity, targeting PVUSD schools.
- More help to children in foster care, and their parents via the "Child Welfare Gate", as well as more help to older foster youth help as they turn 18 to become responsible adults. Have increased capacity (including bilingual capability) to therapeutic visitation services, have hired a transition age coordinator, have improved transitional housing supports for older foster youth, and have improved bilingual services to foster children returning to their families.
- Improved bilingual dual diagnosis services for youth before deeper involvement with Probation, as well as increased "wraparound" slots and funds for high-end placement costs as alternative to extended Juvenile Hall stays.
- Increased roles for parents and youth in providing peer support and advocacy via the Family Partnership Program. "Family Advocate for Children" to start in March, 2007.

Next Steps:

DMH has not yet released the requirements or due dates for the other four MHSA components:

- Capital Facilities and Information Technology
- Education and Training Programs
- Prevention and Early Intervention Programs
- Innovative Programs