

**Mental Health Services Act: Prevention & Early Intervention**  
**Work Group: 13 - 17**  
**July 16, 2008 meeting notes**

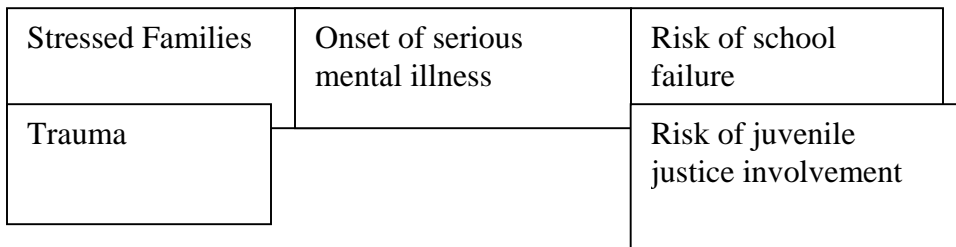
Attendees: Jerry Solomon (Facilitator), Alicia Nájera, Jenny Sarmiento, Holly Heath, Bill McCabe, Nora Rhaimian, Martine Watkins, Alexis May (for Carly Galagneau), Emily Marsh, Mary Cross, Denise Gannon, Ginny Gómez, Jesús Ramírez, Janet Seminerio, David True, Jaime Molina, and Yolanda Pérez-Logan.

Meeting was tape-recorded; these notes (taken by Alicia) are a summary of the meeting (not verbatim).

1. Agenda was reviewed. No changes were made.
2. Introductions.
3. **Decision Making:** Ideally the group would reach consensus. Possible problem is that we have a small work group that meets consistently, and non-participating individuals may attend only when it is time to vote. Discussed various options, including the role of the MHSA Steering Committee. **Group decision:** when it comes time to vote persons that have participated in at least 50% of the meetings will be allowed a vote. Participants can send a designated alternate if they cannot attend a particular meeting; can contact Jerry (425-8785) or Linda Betts (454-4498) to let them know if you can't attend a meeting.
4. **Resource Material.** DMH gave outlines of various programs. Reaction/Comments? Can find out more information about programs by searching the web. Note that some are specific to particular communities, so we would need to document that we've considered this. Look at material as "models". Discussed using logic model to figure out what we will use. The group needs to decide upon its target population(s) and priority needs before deciding on model. Jerry agreed, and said that models may stimulate our thinking; also, he will share models that other Counties are using for PEI programs.
5. **Suicide Information.** Local statistics were disseminated. (Note: these are not for publication.) Brief discussion. Noted that interventions needs to be early, and need to teach children how to cope with stress and suicidal thoughts.
6. **Defining Priority Population.** Discussed the 5 proposed priority populations (Children and youth in stressed families; children/youth at risk of juvenile justice involvement; and after brief review/discussion narrowed the priority population for this group to Onset of Serious Mental Illness and to Trauma Exposed. Long discussion regarding these 5 groupings, including the fact that they are inter-related (e.g. if you look at children at risk of school failure you may also be dealing with a child from a stressed family, and/or has suffered some kind of trauma, and/or is at risk of juvenile justice involvement, etc). Discussion included: school failure, expulsion & drop out problem (wanting to get more information about this problem comparing North and South County, and comparing cultural groups); disproportionate number of minorities being expelled; cultural factors that may impact these issues; how to serve gang involved, lgbt, Latino kids, foster and group home kids. Also discussed onset of serious mental illness and use of drugs/alcohol. Many think we need to involve family in services (though some kids may

be already “differentiating” from their families). Various questions considered: what type of service is needed? How much is needed? Where is the entry point? (Is the entry point the stressed family, or the child at risk?) Discussed using screening tools and agreed that this will not be helpful unless there are services we can refer to. Also talked about educational programs geared toward parents, teachers and school staff, to help them understand what mental illness looks like. Considered educating peers as well.

7. Group did not come to a decision about which group is the priority population, but considered the groups as related to each other as indicated below (either being a subset or connected to each other). Group will think about this and come back to this issue next time.



8. **Feedback about meeting:** Consider bring teens to meeting to give input (will consider this, but may hold off until we have more concrete ideas); appreciate keeping people “on track; would like a break in the middle to have a chance to network (this is not what the group agreed to, but will bring this back up next time as “old business”); appreciate people sharing their ideas as well as being open to others (this hasn’t happened in some of the other groups); like the format and the facilitation is good.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, July 30, 2008 from 9:30 to 11:30. 18 West Beach Street, Room 6, Watsonville, CA