



MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION

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California Mental Health Commission Authorizes Funding to Prevent or Reduce the Negative Impacts of Severe Mental Illness

Today, the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) authorized Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds for Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) programs in San Bernardino, Glenn, Modoc, and Solano counties. The MHSOAC authorized \$14,239,611 dollars for San Bernardino County, \$155,300 for Glenn County, \$125,000 for Modoc County and \$1,890,633 for Solano County.

PEI is the MHSA program that has the goal of transforming the mental health system from “fail first” to “help first”. According to MHSOAC Chair Linford Gayle, “These PEI plans will help counties to be better prepared to offer the ‘right care, at the right time, and in the right place’.” “If we can catch mental illness early, we have the opportunity to help clients build coping skills sooner and to promote positive emotional development for individuals at risk.”

In 2004, the Mental Health Services Act was approved by California voters as Proposition 63 to provide for increased mental health services in California. A Field Poll released in June shows 73% - or 7 in 10 - of California voters surveyed oppose cuts in mental health services to balance the state budget.

MHSOAC Vice Chair Andrew Poat said, “The PEI program was designed to save Californians millions of dollars by lowering use of emergency services, keeping kids in school, and increasing job retention.”

The MHSOAC met on Thursday, September 25th, at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel in Sacramento. The hotel is located at 4422 Y Street, Sacramento, CA.

This MHSOAC meeting is part of the Commission’s meetings around the state to conduct business where the public can have access to the Commission and where the Commission can bring information regarding mental health oversight and accountability to the public.

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