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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**California Mental Health Commission Announces that Sacramento County  
is First to Receive Approval of \$3.3 Million in Housing Funds for  
Sacramento County Homeless**

The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) announced today that Sacramento County will receive \$3.3 million dollars from the state for Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Housing Program Subsidies. The MHSA Housing Program provides funding for the capital costs and operating subsidies to develop permanent supportive affordable housing with support services for persons with serious mental illness who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, and their families.

The California Department of Mental Health has approved plans to allocate Sacramento County approximately \$3.3 million dollars over the next three years for the development of supportive housing. Sacramento County has plans for 33 MHSA units with 90 total new units to be built. The total cost of development will be \$24,370,238. Adults are the target population for this development. Statewide, \$400 million will be available to counties through the MHSA Housing Program.

“We are excited to let Sacramento County know that these Mental Health Services Act housing units are going to be available to the homeless,” said Linford Gayle, Chair of the MHSOAC. “By adding these state resources to the current Sacramento County efforts to reduce homelessness, we can work to reduce the suffering of individuals with co-occurring disorders, and other mental conditions,” said Gayle.

“The Mental Health Services Act declares that mental illness deserves our priority attention and that the Department of Mental Health shall develop strategies to reduce homelessness,” said Andrew Poat, Vice-Chair of the MHSOAC. “We know that the first step to address mental illness is to provide housing. We are pleased that Sacramento County is the first county to receive approval for these MHSA housing funds,” said Poat.

The 16-member MHSOAC state commission was formed by the passage of Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), in November 2004. The MHSOAC is responsible for oversight and accountability for implementation of the MHSA. The MHSA was co-authored by Sacramento area State Senator Darrell Steinberg.

The MHSOAC will be having a meeting on Thursday, May 29th, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Radisson Hotel in Sacramento. This MHSOAC meeting is where the public can have access to the Commission and the Commission can bring information regarding mental health oversight and accountability to the public.

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