



MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 27, 2009

**California Mental Health Commission Authorizes Funding for Colusa,
Placer, San Luis Obispo, Trinity, and Tuolumne County to Prevent or
Reduce the Impact of 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 five counties: Colusa, Placer, San Luis Obispo, Trinity, and Tuolumne County. The MHSOAC authorized \$150,000 to Colusa County, \$1,433,374 for Placer County, \$1,979,500 for San Luis Obispo County, \$125,000 for Trinity County, and \$378,200 for Tuolumne County.

MHSOAC Chair Andrew Poat said, "Prevention and Early Intervention programs will transform the mental health system. We will stop requiring consumers to "fail first" before receiving services and we will move to a "help first" system." Mr. Poat said, "Prevention and Early Intervention programs are a new approach to mental health in California. This program is a win for both mental health consumers and taxpayers."

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 Mervin 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.

Mr. Poat said, "Our prevention programs will decrease expensive emergency room visits as we provide prevention services to consumers of mental health services." "Prevention and Early Intervention funds will keep kids in school, keep families together, and will avoid long term unemployment," said Mr. Poat.

The MHSOAC met on Friday, February 27th, at the California Institute for Mental Health building in Downtown Sacramento.

This MHSOAC meeting is one of many Commission meetings that take place around the state. The intent of these meetings is 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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