



MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION

1300 17th Street, Suite 1000

Sacramento, CA 95811

(916) 445-8696

MHSOAC@dmh.ca.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 17, 2009

California Mental Health Commission Authorizes Prevention Funding for El Dorado County and Innovation Funding for Monterey, San Diego, and Trinity Counties

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 El Dorado County and Innovation (INN) funds for Monterey, San Diego, and Trinity Counties. The MHSOAC authorized \$635,997 for El Dorado County, \$1,475,263 for Monterey County, \$6,272,050 for San Diego County, and \$70,000 for Trinity 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 expanded mental health services in California. 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.

Innovation Programs are novel, creative, ingenious mental health approaches developed within communities in ways that are inclusive and representative. Mr. Poat said, "Innovation funds will help to jump start our thinking about how to improve our mental health programs."

The MHSOAC met on Thursday, December 17 via teleconference.

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.

Contact: Matthew Lieberman
(916) 445-8793
Matthew.Lieberman@dmh.ca.gov