



Mental Health Services
Oversight and Accountability Commission

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\$24 Million in Prop 63 Funds Approved for Alameda, Los Angeles, Solano and Tehama Counties for Mental Health Services

Today, a total of \$24,413,524 was approved by the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) for mental health services in Alameda, Los Angeles, Solano and Tehama Counties. \$2,543,800 was approved for Alameda County, \$20,293,924 was approved for Los Angeles County and \$1,078,300 was approved for Solano County. These funds will be used for Innovative mental health programs. \$497,500 was approved for Tehama County for Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) programs.

The California MHSOAC is a 16-member commission charged with the oversight of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). The MHSA was approved by California voters in 2004 as Proposition 63 to provide for expanded mental health services in California.

The funds approved by the MHSOAC for Innovation (INN) purposes will help fund county mental health programs that are novel, creative, and ingenious in their mental health approaches. These programs are also developed within communities in ways that are inclusive and representative. MHSOAC Chair Andrew Poat said, "Innovation funds will help to jump start our thinking about how to improve our mental health programs."

Alameda County will be using their Innovation funds for a capital style funding process that is designed to engage the larger community and result in more creative projects for quality mental health services. Los Angeles County plans on using their Innovation funds, in part, for determining the effectiveness of four models for integrating mental health, physical health, and substance abuse services. Solano County will be using their Innovation monies to assess the level, and variety of, supports and services various community partners need from the mental health system to enhance the mental health of the communities they serve.

Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) funds are approved for programs that apply strategies focused on preventing mental illness from becoming severe and disabling. 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.”

Tehama County plans on using their PEI funds for three prevention and early intervention projects: the Nurturing Parent Program, You Empowerment Services (YES) and Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT).

“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,” said Mr. Poat. “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,” said Poat.

The MHSOAC met on Thursday, January 28 at the Doubletree Hotel on Point West Way in 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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