



Mental Health Services  
Oversight and Accountability Commission

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Over \$29 Million in Prop 63 Funds Approved for Butte, Kings, Napa, Orange, San Bernardino, Siskiyou, Solano, and Tuolumne Counties for Mental Health Services**

Today, the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) approved a total of \$29,098,178 for mental health services in Butte, Kings, Napa, Orange, San Bernardino, Siskiyou, Solano, and Tuolumne Counties. The MHSOAC approved \$1,265,919 in Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) funds for Kings County, and \$670,466 for Napa County, \$75,000 for Siskiyou County, and \$407,614 for Solano County for new projects outlined in their Prevention and Early Intervention Annual Update. The MHSOAC approved \$908,133 in Innovation (INN) funds for Butte County, and \$18,410,300 for Orange County, \$1,049,346 for Tuolumne County and \$6,311,400 for San Bernardino County as requested for new projects in their Innovation Annual Updates.

The MHSOAC approves Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) funds for programs that apply strategies focused on preventing mental illness from becoming severe and disabling. MHSOAC Chair Andrew 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."

Kings County will be using their PEI funds for two projects. Their first project, *We Can*, focuses on those who have loved ones in one of Kings County's three state prisons. Children of families who have a loved one who is incarcerated experience the trauma of separation, early exposure to drugs and/or violence, and stigma. *We Can* will screen participants and provide team-oriented support as well as peer-to-peer interventions.

Napa County plans on using their \$670,466 in PEI funds for six projects, one of which focuses on the detrimental effects of domestic violence. The *Domestic Violence PEI Project* will work to prevent the onset of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and improve the mental health outcomes of children exposed to domestic violence.

Siskiyou County plans on using the PEI funds they receive to fund a project that integrates older adult services such as transportation, senior mentors, youth volunteers, and peer-to-peer support. The services will be provided to ten Siskiyou County Family/Community Resource Centers-the goal being to promote wellness, recovery, and resiliency.

Solano County's PEI Annual Update funds will finance a new plan that will incorporate several different components. The Early Intervention Wellness Services will provide

structured consumer, family, and paraprofessional-led support groups. In partnership with schools, colleges, worksites, and the Department of Rehabilitation, the program will offer wellness skills, development services and daily living skills services. The third component of the plan allows for Peer Mentors to provide one-on-one interactions to help participants navigate through the mental health system.

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 being developed within communities in ways that are inclusive and representative. Chair Poat said, "Innovation funds will help to jump start our thinking about how to improve our mental health programs."

The Butte County Innovation Work Plan includes five programs. One of the programs, the *Therapeutic Wilderness Experience*, offers an approach to wilderness therapy that most similar programs lack. This program offers aftercare, peer support and involves family members so that when the participants complete their wilderness experience, they will have a network of support that will further their transformation.

Orange County's INN funds will be used for ten different projects. Their *Training to Meet the Mental Health Needs of the Deaf Community* project uses an accredited mental health training program to train consumers and family members from the Deaf community using American Sign Language as the primary language. Graduates of the program can use their certificates to gain entry into employment or can continue their program to get an associate's, bachelor's, or graduate degree. The hope is to bring people from the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community into the mental health field while sensitizing the community of Orange County to the needs of the Deaf.

The Innovation funds approved for San Bernardino County in their Innovation Annual Update will go toward funding an Interagency Youth Resiliency Team. The program intends to improve service delivery for diverse children and youth who are dependents of the County of San Bernardino Children and Family Services Foster Care programs or Wards of the Court supervised by the Probation Department. The main focus of the program is to utilize the expertise of youth who have been involved in these systems to plan, implement and evaluate services for youth in the County of San Bernardino.

The \$1,049,346 approved for Tuolumne County's Innovation component will be used for a three-year project called *Building a Life at Home*. In this project, Tuolumne County's Behavioral Health Department, consumers and families, representatives of Spanish-speaking and Native American residents, and diverse stakeholders will collaborate to address issues regarding the decision to conserve severely mentally ill residents in long term residential in and out-of-county facilities or who would refer community members for more restrictive services. The County will form a Task Force that meets regularly to address community-issues related to the mentally ill and alternatives to restrictive higher level placements.

The MHSOAC met on Thursday, June 24, 2010 at the California Institute for Mental Health in Sacramento.

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