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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Over \$6 Million in Prop 63 Funds Approved for Calaveras, Placer, Santa Clara, Siskiyou and Stanislaus Counties for Mental Health Services**

Today, the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) approved a total of \$6,321,089 for mental health services in Calaveras, Placer, Santa Clara, Siskiyou, and Stanislaus Counties. The MHSOAC approved \$400,300 for Calaveras County, \$1,541,300 for Placer County, \$3,515,789 for Santa Clara County, and \$712,700 for Stanislaus County in Innovation (INN) funds. Siskiyou County was approved for \$151,000 in Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) funds.

The funds approved by the MHSOAC for Innovation (INN) purposes will help fund county mental health programs that are novel and include a learning element. 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."

Calaveras County will be using their \$400,300 in INN monies to fund two work plans; Community Support Groups and the Garden to Families Program. The Garden to Families Program supports consumer recovery goals through meaningful volunteer work that helps support the Calaveras County Food Bank. In this program, consumers cultivate and harvest produce and then donate it to the food bank. Garden to Families also provides transportation to consumers in the more isolated parts of the county and outreaches to Latino and Miwok consumers.

Placer County will be using the \$1,541,300 approved in their INN plan for a new program called the Innovative Community Collaboration Grants Program. The goal of this program is to engage and help build the capacity of natural support networks for consumers who help keep people well. The hope is that this grants program will help address the unpredictable nature of funding for core mental health programs while encouraging wellness by supporting the community.

Santa Clara County will be using their \$3,515,789 to fund eight work plans. One of these work plans, the Peer-Run Transition Age Youth Inn Project, seeks to develop the leadership skills of Transition-Age Youth (TAY) by making them the primary providers of services in a voluntary 24-hour setting. The TAY service providers will make significant

program decisions in both design and delivery. The intent of this program is to help TAY who are homeless, in crisis, and at risk of experiencing mental health problems.

Stanislaus County will be using their \$712,700 in INN money to develop stakeholder processes that enable community and county partners to join with Behavioral Health Resources Services leaders in developing an integrated, financially sustainable behavioral health system committed to results.

The MHSOAC approves Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) funds for programs that apply strategies focused on individuals at risk of becoming mentally ill and 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."

Siskiyou County will be using the \$151,000 approved in their PEI Program Update for a program called the PEI Mobile Services Project. In this project, Personal Service Coordinators (PSC) will travel throughout the county to provide mental health assessments, crisis stabilization support, suicide prevention, education and vocational training services. They will collaborate with local programs to prevent issues like substance abuse and domestic violence. The program will serve transition age youth, adults, and their families.

The MHSOAC met on Thursday, September 23 at the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas, CA.

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