



MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION

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California Mental Health Commission Approves Over \$4 Million in Proposition 63 Funds for Mental Health Programs

Today, the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) approved \$1,004,515 in Prevention and Early Intervention funds and \$3,075,843 in Innovation funds for a total of \$4,080,358. These funds are provided by the Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63), the November 2004 voter initiative that placed a 1% tax on incomes above \$1 million.

The MHSOAC approves Prevention and Early Intervention funds for programs that focus on the early detection of mental illness and on the prevention of mental illness from become severe and disabling.

The MHSOAC approved \$1,004,515 in Prevention and Early Intervention funds for several new programs in Sonoma County. These programs focus on integrating primary care and mental health care while increasing access to care among ethnic and linguistic minority populations. The first of the three new programs known as "Santa Rosa Community Health Centers" will fund new and expanded outreach activities that incorporate mental health services with medical services to increase the quality of care for underserved ethnic and cultural populations. The "Sonoma County Indian Health Project" will fund the expansion of services primarily for Native Americans and Latinos who are uninsured. The third program, "Reducing Disparities in Access to Mental Health Services," will focus on public education and community engagement activities with peer-based trainings and mentoring services.

The MHSOAC approved \$3,075,843 in Innovation funds for Kings County, Modoc County and San Luis Obispo County. The Commission approves Innovation funds for programs that promote an increase in overall access of services, promote access for underserved populations, promote an increase in the quality of the services provided, and that encourage collaboration between different agencies.

Kings County was approved for \$944,843 in Innovation funds for their Youth Transitions work plan. The program features an adaptation of a therapeutic practice known as Equine-Facilitated Psychotherapy and includes collaboration between Kings County Behavioral Health, tribal leaders, youth and their family members.

Modoc County was approved for a total of \$253,900 to fund their work plan "Taking Integration Personally" in which strong linkages are developed between mental health, alcohol and other drug services, public health, primary care, social services and collaborative treatment courts. Modoc's Innovation work plan will also create and test an integrated system for treatment delivery for those with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders and/or serious medical conditions.

San Luis Obispo proposes using their approved \$1,877,100 for a total of eight Innovation work plans. One of the work plans, the "Atascadero Student Wellness Career Project," was initiated by San Luis Obispo County high school students with the intention of engaging high school youths' interest, capacity, and skills to provide mental health supports to peers. The work plan includes the creation of a peer counseling model and a stigma reduction campaign that will be directed by youth and will introduce students to behavioral health education and careers in the behavioral health field.

The MHSOAC met on Thursday, February 24, 2011 via teleconference.

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