

INFORMATION

TAB SECTION: 5

  X ACTION REQUIRED

DATE OF MEETING: 9/27/12

PREPARED BY: Bradley

DATE MATERIAL PREPARED: 9/19/12

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**AGENDA ITEMS: Recommendations for the Expenditure of \$875,000 in FY 2012/13 Funds for Evaluation**

- ENCLOSURES:**
- *Proposal J:* Evaluation of the Impact of the Community Planning Process Through Participatory Research
  - *Proposal M:* Collection of Baseline Priority Indicator Data
  - *Proposal E:* Assessment and Improvement of Innovation Program Evaluations
  - *Proposal Z:* Strengthening of Data Collection Systems and Standardized Reporting within the Community Services and Support (CSS) Component
  - A PowerPoint presentation

**OTHER MATERIAL RELATED TO ITEMS:** None

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**ISSUE:**

The continued implementation of evaluation is an important priority identified in the 2011 Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) Work Plan. The development of evaluation priorities is a critical part of MHSOAC efforts that enables the Commission to further its work implementing statewide evaluations of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). At the September 27<sup>th</sup> MHSOAC meeting, the Commission will consider recommendations provided by the Evaluation Committee regarding priorities for use of \$875,000 evaluation funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012/13.

The enclosed proposals for Commission consideration reflect concepts recommended by the Evaluation Committee and the MHSOAC staff as priorities based on available resources.

**PROPOSALS:**

The Legislature appropriated funding for FY 2012/13 to be available for evaluation efforts to enable the MHSOAC to continue its oversight and accountability responsibility. At the July 23, 2012 Evaluation Committee meeting, the Committee began the initial discussion regarding selection of evaluation priorities to recommend to the Commission for allocation of the \$875,000 in evaluation funds. The Committee considered several options proposed by Dr. Joan Meisel, MHSOAC consultant, that she believed to be consistent with the Evaluation Master Plan, which is currently in development. In addition, other evaluation options were generated by Committee members or MHSOAC staff based on Committee discussion and input. In the end, 11 proposals were shared with and considered by the Evaluation Committee at its August 22, 2012 meeting.

Two proposed ideas (J and M—described below) received support from the Committee; it appeared as though consensus was reached that these two ideas should be recommended to the Commission as priorities for FY 2012/13. The basic goals of these projects are noted below; brief proposals are enclosed here for your review.

- **Proposal J: Evaluation of the Impact of the Community Planning Process through Participatory Research.** This project aims to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of the community planning process using Participatory Research methods. Results would be used to develop criteria for effective community planning that could be used for continuous quality improvement.
  - *Approximate Cost: \$0-\$300,000*
  
- **Proposal M: Collection of Baseline Priority Indicator Data.** This project aims to collect data on system/program- and individual/family-level outcomes (i.e., priority indicators that were previously approved by the MHSOAC) from a time point prior to full implementation of the MHSA (e.g., 2004-5) in order to establish a baseline that may be used for comparison purposes. Comparison of baseline data to data collected after implementation of the MHSA will further our understanding of potential shifts in system- and individual-level outcomes that may be a result of the MHSA.
  - *Approximate Cost: \$0-\$175,000*

In addition, two proposed ideas were supported by some of the Committee Members but not by others (E and F); consensus could not be reached regarding these two proposals. After consideration of Committee Member perspectives that were shared at the Committee Meeting, the current state of MHSOAC evaluation efforts and priorities, and recommendations from the Commission to consider Innovation in this round of funding, MHSOAC staff recommend proposal E (goals of this project are described below, and a brief proposal is enclosed). MHSOAC staff have also provided additional recommendations regarding proposal F in the segment on page 3 of this document titled “Additional Recommendations”.

- **Proposal E: Assessment and Improvement of Innovation Program Evaluations.** This project is designed to assess the quality and efficacy of a sample of current Innovation Program evaluations and take steps to ensure that counties are receiving enough support to independently conduct rigorous Innovation Program evaluations. The end goal would be a process for ensuring quality county-level evaluation of Innovation Programs that would facilitate adoption of those Programs that were deemed to be effective in meeting MHSA goals.
  - *Approximate Cost: \$150,000-\$200,000*

Finally, three proposals (A, B, and G) received support from Committee Members, who felt as though these projects belonged together and should be collapsed into one concept that could be carried out in a cohesive manner. Committee Members reached consensus that these projects should be collapsed and made a priority for use of the \$875,000 evaluation funding for FY 2012/13. However, many Committee Members shared ideas for ways that these concepts could be further strengthened to better meet current MHSOAC evaluation priorities. Thus, MHSOAC staff used concepts from these three original proposals as well as ideas generated by Committee Members at the August 22 Committee Meeting to create a revised proposal (Z). The primary aims of this project are noted below; a brief proposal is also enclosed.

- **Proposal Z: Strengthening of Data Collection Systems and Standardized Reporting within the Community Services and Support (CSS) Component.**  
 This project aims to provide resources aimed at improving the accuracy, availability, and use of program/provider, client, and outcome data on services funded under the MHSA within the CSS component. The goal is to identify and take action on the steps that are needed to address problems that exist regarding the availability, quality, and timeliness of CSS data and reporting processes.
  - *Approximate Cost: \$350,000-450,000*

**Note regarding Approximate Cost Ranges:**

Please note that the approximate cost ranges provided for each proposal reflect a variety of potential strategies for completing them, pending Commission approval. MHSOAC staff understand that the sum of highest approximate costs for all four proposals total more than our currently available funding for FY 2012/13. If all four proposals are approved by the Commission, MHSOAC staff would pursue strategies for completing these proposed projects that allowed for completion within our designated evaluation budget.

**Additional Recommendations:**

At the August 22 Committee Meeting, the Committee discussed Proposal F (titled, Build on Portions of the RAND Prevention and Early Intervention Framework), which proposed setting aside a portion of FY 2012/13 evaluation funds as a placeholder to use toward potential adoption of facets of the PEI Framework developed for CalMHSA by RAND. Some of the Committee Members shared their perspective that the draft Framework may be of use to the MHSOAC, whereas others highlighted that this may not be the right time to move forward to assess the value of the Framework since it had not been finalized at that time. Due to this issue of timing and the lack of consensus among Committee Members, MHSOAC staff recommend that the proposed PEI Framework be considered further at a later date within the scope of the Master Plan, which is currently being developed by Dr. Joan Meisel (and is due to the MHSOAC by December 31, 2012). MHSOAC staff recommend that Dr. Meisel continue to work with MHSOAC staff and stakeholders to develop a Master Plan that includes a PEI segment

and consider how portions of the PEI Framework may be used to guide this development. Implementation of the Master Plan is scheduled to begin in January 2013, pending Commission approval. Further implementation of the Plan and included PEI evaluation efforts would then also be considered during deliberations regarding evaluation priorities and funding allocations for FY 2013/14.

In addition, MHSOAC staff recommend Commission support for growing the MHSOAC’s internal staffing of its evaluation team. The MHSOAC is currently highly reliant on external contractors to carry out prioritized evaluation efforts. Reliance on external contractors can be costly and lessen the MHSOAC’s control over such projects.

**Proposed Motion**

(1) *The Commission adopts the Evaluation Committee and OAC Staff recommendations of the priority proposals to expend the \$875,000 in FY 2012/13 funds for evaluation as set forth below:*

- *Proposal J: Evaluation of the Impact of the Community Planning Process Through Participatory Research (\$0-\$300,000)*
- *Proposal M: Collection of Baseline Priority Indicator Data (\$0-\$175,000)*
- *Proposal E: Assessment and Improvement of Innovation Program Evaluations (\$150,000-\$200,000)*
- *Proposal Z: Strengthening of Data Collection Systems and Standardized Reporting within the Community Services and Support (CSS) Component (\$350,000-\$450,000)*