



2012-13 Community Forums Commission Report

September 26, 2013

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Forums Included In This Report

- San Luis Obispo County
– (San Luis Obispo—11/29/12)
- San Bernardino County
– (Loma Linda—3/14/13)
- Sonoma County
– (Rohnert Park—6/13/13)
- Monterey County
– (Monterey—8/8/13)



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Attendance

- 1,535 individuals have participated in the past 9 forums.
- 615 individuals have participated in the past 4 forums during this past year:
 - 118 in San Luis Obispo
 - 232 in San Bernardino (Loma Linda)
 - 115 in Sonoma (Rohnert Park)
 - 150 in Monterey



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Findings

- **Positive Feedback From the Forums**
 - Comments that Peer Services are effective.
 - Participants felt that the primary benefit of peer services is to have staff who “have been there” and have “walked the walk”.
 - Clients felt they can identify with peers who have lived experience.
 - Comments that progress has been made in reducing stigma.
 - In many counties, there are local anti-stigma campaigns, there are now persons with lived experience on staff, there are PEI programs in local schools, and there is increased outreach for suicide prevention—all contributing to stigma reduction.

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More Positive Feedback

- In San Luis Obispo, reports of increased bilingual mental health services.
- In San Bernardino, reports of mental health services in the schools.
- In Sonoma, positive reports about the Mental Health Court.
- In Monterey, reports on parent mental health education.

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Service Challenge Themes

Access

- Need for increased Cultural Competence
- Need for education, coordination and navigation between public and private health care services due to barriers from insurance requirements.
 - Note: MHSAs funds are intended to pay for services not already covered by insurance or other local, state or federal funds (Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5878.3(a) and 5813.5(b)).
- Need for more timely access to services, i.e., shorter waiting lists.
- Need for assistance with transportation to various appointments and support groups.

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Service Challenge Themes

-Continued-

Improvement and Expansion of Services

- Need for more mental health professionals in order to meet service demand.
- Need for expansion of housing programs.
- The need to develop increased programs and services that are specifically designed for transition age youth (TAY).

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Service Challenge Themes

-Continued-

Education about Services and Mental Health

- Need for more community education about available services.
- Need for supported education and employment.

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Issue Resolution Process (IRP)

- Need to determine what strategies the MHSOAC uses to respond to specific concerns raised by forum participants.

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Recommendations

1. The Commission should direct staff to share information about positive impact and service challenges identified at MHSA Community Forums directly with county mental health departments.

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Recommendations -Continued-

2. The Commission should request an update from the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) on the status of the \$400 million MHSA housing program.
3. The findings of this report will be shared with the Evaluation Unit to determine the feasibility of using the findings for possible future evaluations.

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Motion

MOTION:

Adopt the recommendations in the 2012-13 MHSA Community Forums Report.



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