WELLNESS • RECOVERY • RESILIENCE

Forum Essentials

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What You Need to Know About MHSA Community Forums

- The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) wants to hear from you.

  The Commission is conducting community forums throughout California to hear firsthand from clients, parents, family members, and caregivers about their experience with the Mental Health Services Act, known as Proposition 63.

- The Commission is also seeking input from:
  - Peer Service Providers
  - County staff
  - Contract service providers
- The Commission wants to hear directly from all forum participants about what is working with the MHSA and the challenges that remain.
- The Commission encourages clients, parents, family members, caregivers, and providers from racial, ethnic and cultural groups to attend and participate in the Community Forum.
- **If requested in advance, interpreters will be available at the forums.** (To ask for an interpreter to be available at a Community Forum, you may contact the Commission at (916) 445-8696 or mhsoac@mhsoac.ca.gov)

- If you are a parent or family member, there may be financial support known as "stipends" available to help you participate in the community forum. **(Note: Stipends must be requested in advance.)**

  These stipends may include help with:

  - Child care
  - Mileage
  - Parking
  - Food

  For information about parent/family stipends, please contact:

  Vickie Mendoza
  Director, Statewide and Community Network,
  United Advocates for Children (UACF)
  (916) 643-1530, Extension 103
  vmendoza@uacf4hope.org

- The Community Forum will include separate discussion groups for each of the following:

  - Clients and Family Members
  - Parents and Caregivers
  - Transition Age Youth (TAY – ages 16-25)
  - Peer Service Providers
  - County Staff
  - Contract Service Providers
  - Persons Who Do Not Speak English

- Comments made at the forum will remain anonymous and may be included in:
    - A forum summary report on the San Bernardino Forum that will be posted on the MHSOAC website.
    - An annual report to the Commission on MHSA Community Forums.

Community Forum Schedule

- Before the Community Forum begins there will be resource tables set up with materials from various local mental health providers. It is expected that agencies represented will include those who serve ethnic and cultural groups, children and families, transition age youth, adults, older adults and college students. **The resource tables will be available from 1:30 – 2:30 PM.**

(**Please note - due to limited space, agencies must be pre-approved to participate at the resource tables before the Community Forum. Please contact the MHSOAC at mhsoac@mhsoac.ca.gov or (916) 445-8696 if you are interested in participating and bringing resource materials.)**

- The Community Forum starts at 3:00 PM and goes until 6:30 PM.
- The forum begins at 3:00 PM with welcomes, introductions, and background information about the MHSA and the Commission.
- Discussion groups will convene about 3:45 PM and end at 5:00 PM.
- Snacks will be provided at 5:00 PM.
- The Community Forum will conclude with brief reports from the discussion groups about themes that emerged in their discussions and an “open comment” period for participants.