Mental Health Services
Oversight & Accountability Commission

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WELLNESS • RECOVERY • RESILIENCE

May 13, 2013

Dear Mental Health Community in Sonoma and Neighboring Counties:

A Community Forum will be held on June 13, 2013, to discuss the impact of Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), in Sonoma and neighboring counties. The Community Forum is sponsored by the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC), and facilitated by two MHSOAC committees, the Client and Family Leadership Committee and the Cultural and Linguistic Competence Committee.

The Community Forum will be held from 3:00 to 6:30 PM.

Location: DoubleTree Hotel
One DoubleTree Drive
Rohnert Park, California 94928
Phone: 1-707-584-5466 (Directions only)

Specifically, the MHSOAC is interested in hearing from stakeholders about how MHSA services and supports that were funded as a result of Proposition 63 have made a difference for them, their families and/or their community. MHSOAC Committee members and staff will facilitate a semi-structured discussion with attending stakeholders designed to elicit feedback and diverse views. Information and stories gleaned through this discussion will be summarized annually and used to provide feedback to the MHSOAC about how persons have experienced the MHSA in local communities throughout California. This information will be considered by the MHSOAC in shaping future policy direction.

The Community Forum is not a formal review or an audit of MHSA programs in Sonoma and neighboring counties. The goal of the forums is to advance MHSOAC communication with the California public and provide opportunities to hear firsthand from stakeholders. Specific goals for the Community Forums include:

1. Provide opportunities for the MHSOAC to hear firsthand from clients, family members and other stakeholders about their experience with the

2. Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) in local communities throughout California including what is working and what are the challenges.

3. Expand public awareness and education about Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) and the MHSOAC.

4. Gather and collect information and stories, positive or negative, about the local experience and impact of the MHSA.

5. Expand the visibility of the MHSOAC by holding community forums throughout California, including areas of the state where the Commission does not usually meet.

6. The information gathered at Community Forums will be analyzed, summarized and reported annually to the Commission to shape the development of future policy direction.

We look forward to hosting this Community Forum in Rohnert Park and hope to see many stakeholders from Sonoma and other neighboring counties there to participate.

Interpreters will be made available upon request. Please contact the MHSOAC at mhsoac@mhsoac.ca.gov or (916) 445-8696 for these requests and provide at least 7 days advance notice to help ensure availability.

Because space is limited we would appreciate an RSVP if you are planning on attending or attending with a group of participants. Please RSVP to mhsoac@mhsoac.ca.gov or (916) 445-8696.

If you have questions about the Community Forum, please contact Matthew Lieberman of the MHSOAC staff at: matthew.lieberman@mhsoac.ca.gov or (916) 445-8696.

We look forward to seeing you on June 13, 2013 in Rohnert Park.

Sincerely,

Ralph E. Nelson Jr., M.D., Commissioner
Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission
Chair, Client and Family Leadership Committee

Dr. Victor Carrion, Commissioner
Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission
Chair, Cultural and Linguistic Competence Committee

Tina Wooton, Commissioner
Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission
Vice-Chair, Client and Family Leadership Committee