

AGENDA ITEM: Adoption of the Evaluation Master Plan and Implementation Plan (Action)

- ENCLOSURES:**
- MHSOAC Evaluation Master Plan
 - MHSOAC Evaluation Implementation Plan for Fiscal Years 2013/14 - 2017/18

OTHER MATERIAL RELATED TO ITEM: The PowerPoint for the MHSOAC Evaluation Master Plan and Implementation Plan will be handed out at the meeting.

Issue:

As the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC or Commission) has taken on a robust role in evaluation, it is faced with many possible evaluation projects and competing priorities. The MHSOAC is seeking a plan for prioritizing possibilities into a three to five year course of action for evaluation investments and activities.

Background:

Evaluation is a principle oversight strategy for the MHSOAC as named in statute, incorporated in the MHSOAC Logic Model, and detailed in the policy paper adopted by the Commission titled, "Accountability through Evaluative Efforts Focusing on Oversight, Accountability and Evaluation." Evaluation is one function the MHSOAC uses to see that Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds are expended in a cost effective manner and that the investments are leading to improvements for the consumers of the public mental health system.

In 2011, as the MHSOAC Evaluation Committee considered priorities for future evaluation projects, it recommended that the Commission consider developing an Evaluation Master Plan so that evaluation is completed as a unified effort as compared to an ad hoc basis. In November 2011, the Commission advanced the Committee recommendation and the MHSOAC entered into a contract with consultant Joan Meisel Ph.D. to draft a plan through a collaborative effort with state departments, counties, and stakeholders.

The MHSOAC Evaluation Master Plan is the result of findings from interviews with approximately 40 key informant interviews along with county visits. The plan focuses on individual, system, and community outcomes; provides specific evaluation activities and a general system by which to prioritize those and future evaluation activities; and identifies

strategies for successful completion of all items described and prioritized in the plan. While the major focus of the plan is on the MHSA, the scope of the plan is broader.

The Commission completed a first read of the Evaluation Master Plan at the January 24, 2013 Commission Meeting, at which time Commissioners suggested ways to strengthen the Plan. Those suggestions have since been incorporated into the Plan. Thus, the Commission will now complete a second read of the Evaluation Master Plan and consider adopting it.

In addition, MHSOAC staff have used the Evaluation Master Plan to generate an implementation plan that describes the specific evaluation activities that are proposed to be carried out over the next five years and costs associated with those activities. The Evaluation Implementation Plan provides a brief overview of the basic evaluation paradigm or model that MHSOAC evaluation efforts shall be based on, and summarizes the process through which evaluation activities will regularly be prioritized.

In addition, The Evaluation Implementation Plan describes two possible scenarios for execution of the Evaluation Master Plan. Specifically, the first scenario provides the recommended evaluation activities that shall be completed in the coming fiscal years given current levels of funding for evaluation (i.e., \$1M) and staff (i.e., three full-time staff members committed to evaluation). The second scenario provides a timeline and associated costs and staffing needs to proceed with full implementation of the Evaluation Master Plan (i.e., completion of all prioritized evaluation activities described within the Evaluation Master Plan in the next five-year period). As described with the Implementation Plan, additional resources will be needed in order to proceed with full implementation of the Evaluation Master Plan. The MHSOAC's ability to move forward with full implementation will, thus, depend on receipt of those additional resources.

The Commissioners will consider adoption of the Evaluation Master Plan and Implementation Plan at the March 28, 2013 Commission Meeting.

Proposed Motion:

1. *Adopt the MHSOAC Evaluation Master Plan.*
2. *Adopt the MHSOAC Evaluation Implementation Plan for Fiscal Years 2013/14 – 2017/18.*