

**X** INFORMATION

TAB SECTION: 2

\_\_\_ ACTION REQUIRED

DATE OF MEETING: 9/25/13

PREPARED BY: Oseguera/Lieberman

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**AGENDA ITEM: Prevention & Early Intervention and Innovation Overview**

**ENCLOSURES:** None

**OTHER MATERIAL RELATED TO ITEM:** None

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**General Orientation:**

The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC or Commission) will present an overview of the Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) and Innovation components of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA).

**Presenters:**

- Richard Van Horn, Chair, Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission
- Deborah Lee, PhD., Consulting Psychologist, Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

**Background of Prevention and Early Intervention:**

Twenty percent of the funds from Proposition 63, the MHSA, go to PEI programs as a key strategy to “prevent mental illness from becoming severe and disabling” and improve “timely access for underserved populations.” PEI programs emphasize strategies to reduce negative outcomes that may result from untreated mental illness: suicide, incarcerations, school failure or dropout, unemployment, prolonged suffering, homelessness, and removal of children from their homes.

California’s historic commitment to prevention and early intervention through Proposition 63 moves the mental health system towards a “help-first” instead of a “fail first” strategy. PEI identifies individuals at risk of or indicating early signs of mental illness or emotional disturbance and links them to treatment and other resources. PEI creates partnerships with schools, justice systems, primary care, and a wide range of social services and community resources and locates services in convenient places where people go for other routine activities.

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**Background of Prevention and Early Intervention Continued:**

The MHSA specifies that PEI programs must include:

- Outreach to families, employers, primary care health care providers, and others to recognize the early signs of potentially severe and disabling mental illness
- Access and linkage to medically necessary care as early in the onset of these conditions as practicable
- Reduction in stigma associated with either being diagnosed with a mental illness or seeking mental health services and reduction in discrimination against people with mental illness (MHSA, Section 4, Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) § 5840(b)).

PEI-funded services are expected to “include components similar to programs that have been successful in reducing the duration of untreated severe mental illness and assisting people in quickly regaining productive lives” (MHSA, Section 4, WIC §5840(c)).

**Background of Innovation:**

Innovative Programs are the smallest financial component of MHSA services. Innovation programs are funded from five percent of PEI funds and five percent of Community Service and Supports (CSS) funds.

In June of 2012, MHSA requirements for Innovation were clarified by Assembly Bill (AB) 1467 (Statutes 2012 Chapter 23). AB 1467 returned to the MHSOAC approval authority over Innovation funds. For the rest of MHSA funds, approval authority for plans and programs is at the county level.

Innovative programs are provided for in the MHSA in WIC § 5830.

Innovative programs have one of the following as their primary purpose:

- To increase access to underserved groups
- To increase the quality of services, including better outcomes
- To promote interagency and community collaboration
- To increase access to services

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**Background of Innovation Continued:**

Innovative Programs do one of the following in order to develop and disseminate new practices to address intractable mental health challenges:

- Introduce new mental health practices or approaches, including but not limited to prevention and early intervention
- Make a change to an existing mental health practice or approach, including, but not limited to, adaptation for a new setting or community or
- Introduce to the mental health system a promising community-driven practice or approach or a practice/approach that has been successful in non-mental health contexts or settings

All innovative Programs are time-limited. The core activity of an Innovative Project is the evaluation through which the county assesses whether and how the Project brings about the intended outcomes. If an innovative project has proven to be successful and a county chooses to continue it, the Innovative Project is required to transition to another category of funding, if ongoing funding is required.