

INFORMATION

TAB SECTION: 6

  X   ACTION REQUIRED

DATE OF MEETING: 6/25/09

PREPARED BY: Lee

DATE MATERIAL PREPARED: 6/12/09

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**AGENDA ITEM: Adopt DMH Stigma and Discrimination Strategic Plan**

- ENCLOSURES:**
- *California Strategic Plan on Reducing Mental Health Stigma and Discrimination* Final Draft
  - CFLC Recommendations: DMH California Strategic Plan on Reducing Mental Health Stigma and Discrimination, including Public Comment

**OTHER MATERIAL RELATED TO ITEM:**

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**ISSUE**

According to a major report by the Surgeon General of the United States, “Stigma is the most formidable obstacle to future progress in the arena of mental illness and health.”

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) developed a ten-year strategic plan to guide California actions, activities, and investments associated with reducing mental health-related stigma and discrimination. According to DMH, “The Plan is not just for MHSA, DMH, or the mental health system, but rather for all institutions, organizations, and other entities in the public, private, and non-profit sectors – as well as individuals dedicated to the complete social inclusion of individuals living with mental illness.”

**BACKGROUND**

The MHSOAC convened a committee in Spring 2007 to develop recommendations on reducing stigma and discrimination associated with mental health challenges. This committee produced a paper that included a recommendation to develop a comprehensive ten-year strategic plan (June 2007).

In May 2008, the MHSOAC requested that DMH develop this strategic plan. In November 2008, DMH convened a committee of more than 50 members to develop the plan presented today to the MHSOAC. Development of this plan included two Public Workshops that produced 1,181 comments and a statewide conference call, as well as participation with the MHSOAC CFLC.

The CFLC held two meetings (May 29 and June 8, 2009) to review the *Strategic Plan on Reducing Mental Health Stigma and Discrimination*. CFLC believes that the *Strategic Plan* provides an outstanding statewide framework and toolkit for California to reduce stigma and discrimination against people with lived experience of mental health challenges. The document is especially useful for education and inspiration.

CFLC asked DMH to make several additions and changes to the *Strategic Plan*. Jordan Blair led the DMH response and made changes in a very short time. The CFLC greatly appreciates DMH for its outstanding collaboration and responsiveness.

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**RECOMMENDATION**

CFLC enthusiastically recommends that MHSOAC approve the DMH *Strategic Plan on Reducing Mental Health Stigma and Discrimination*.

CFLC makes several recommendations to DMH regarding the use of the *Strategic Plan* as well as recommendations to increase the accessibility of spin-off documents. A key recommendation is that

- DMH develop and include in an appendix or Executive Summary an example template of how the document’s principles and tools can be used to create a strategic plan on the statewide or local level. The template/example should include goal areas, objectives, projects/strategies, and timelines to be implemented.

CFLC’s recommendation to MHSOAC to approve the *Strategic Plan* is not contingent on DMH taking specific actions with regard to CFLC’s S recommendations (development of a template/example of a local strategic plan, uses of Plan, style suggestions for spin-off documents, etc.). MHSOAC offers to DMH the CFLC’s suggestions as a resource regarding recommended uses of the *Strategic Plan on Reducing Mental Health Stigma and Discrimination*.

**Proposed Motion:**

***MHSOAC adopts the California Strategic Plan on Reducing Mental Health Stigma and Discrimination.***