

AGENDA ITEM: Update on the Mental Health Services Housing Program

- Panel Presentation – “Housing the Mentally Ill and Chronically Homeless: An Effective Solution, but Counties Need Greater Flexibility”

ENCLOSURES: PowerPoint from the Senate Office of Oversight and Outcomes

OTHER MATERIAL RELATED TO ITEM: Handouts of the additional PowerPoint presentations will be available at the meeting.

Background:

Executive Order S-07-06, signed by former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on May 12, 2006, mandated the establishment of the Mental Health Services Act Housing Program, with the stated goal of creating 10,000 additional units of permanent supportive housing for individuals with mental illness and their families. In 2007, \$400 million in MHSA funds were made available to finance the capital costs associated with development, acquisition, construction and/or rehabilitation of permanent supportive housing for this population. This effort was called the MHSA Housing Program. The California Department of Mental Health (DMH), the California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA) and the County Mental Health Directors Association implemented the MHSA Housing Program.

At the July 28, 2011 Commission Meeting, Jane Laciste, Chief of MHSA Plan Reviews and Community Program Support, DMH, and Claudia Cappio, Executive Director of the California Housing Finance Agency, presented “Progress on the MHSA Housing Initiative.”

Senate President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, a co-author of Proposition 63, requested that the California Senate Office of Oversight and Outcomes assess the \$400 million program. The Senate Office of Oversight and Outcomes, which was created in November 2008 by Senator Steinberg to bolster the Senate’s ability to scrutinize government programs, released a report in August 2011, which assessed the MHSA Housing Program.

Presentation:

The Commission will be provided with a panel presentation. Panel members include Nancy Vogel, Principal Consultant, California Senate Office of Oversight and Outcomes. Ms. Vogel will provide a presentation on “Housing the Mentally Ill and Chronically Homeless: An Effective Solution, but Counties Need Greater Flexibility” Report.

Other panelists, James L. Featherstone, LCSW, Assistant Director, Napa County Health and Human Services (Retired), Scott Gruendl, Agency Director, Glenn County Health Services Agency, and Marvin J. Southard, DSW, Director, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health will be present to provide county perspectives.

INFORMATION

TAB SECTION: 6

 X ACTION REQUIRED

DATE OF MEETING: 11/17/11

PREPARED BY: Best

DATE MATERIAL PREPARED: 11/02/11

Ms. Vogel and the panel will provide a thorough overview of this report highlighting:

- MHSA Housing Program background and overview
- Barriers to the success of the program
- Leveraging of funds
- County Perspectives
- Program Successes
- California Senate Office of Oversight and Outcomes Recommendations

Questions for Commission Consideration:

- 1. Is the investment on track to provide a satisfactory amount of housing for individuals who are chronically homeless and seriously mentally ill?*
- 2. Are current state practices hindering local development of housing?*
- 3. Should counties that received an allocation of less than \$1,000,000 be given flexibility in how they accomplish the goals of the MHSA Housing Program?*
- 4. Should the cap limiting the amount that may be used for operating subsidies be lifted?*