

AGENDA ITEMS: Client and Family Leadership Committee

- Report Findings from 2010 Community Forums

ENCLOSURES:

- Report on 2010 Community Forums
- PowerPoint

OTHER MATERIAL RELATED TO ITEMS: None

Issue

As one of the central deliverables of the 2011 Client and Family Leadership Committee (CFLC) Charter, the committee is tasked with evaluating lessons learned from the prior year’s forums and to provide the Commission with an update on the findings. Commissioner Vega, CFLC Chair will present the findings from the five Community Forums that the CFLC conducted in 2010. Enclosed for your review is the Report to the MHSOAC on 2010 Community Forums and the PowerPoint presentation that will be presented at the September 22, 2011 meeting.

Background

In 2010, five Community Forums were held by the CFLC throughout the State of California, primarily to elicit comments from the public on the progress and implementation of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) in local communities. The five locations for the Community Forums were: Tulare County (Visalia), Los Angeles County (City of Los Angeles), Humboldt County (Eureka), Monterey County (Salinas) and Los Angeles County (Long Beach).

The structure of the Community Forums evolved during the course of the year. In Tulare County, the forum began with a presentation by Tulare County staff regarding their MHSA funded programs. By the end of the 2010 Community Forums, the Long Beach Community Forum included presentations from various MHSA funded programs, followed by a semi-structured discussion with formal and informal questions from the CFLC Members.

The following are the four critical questions that emerged as areas of concern that the CFLC will tackle and mitigate in the 2011 Community Forums:

1. How can the MHSOAC preserve a sense of comfort for the participants at the Community Forums and freedom from the fear of retaliation for public comments?
2. How does the MHSOAC respond to the concerns of community members?
3. What will happen as a result of the Community Forums?
4. How does MHSOAC ensure diverse and robust participation in the Community Forums?