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# AGENDA ITEM 7A

Action

April 23, 2015 Commission Meeting

## Approve Interagency Agreement with the University of California Regents for Older Adults Evaluation

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**Summary:** The purpose of this agenda item is to secure the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission's (MHSOAC or Commission) approval to enter into an interagency agreement with the Regents of the University of California to complete an evaluation focused on mental health services and systems of care for older adults. This evaluation activity is Study 4 from the Commission-adopted Evaluation Master Plan. It was previously prioritized to begin in the current fiscal year 2014/15. MHSOAC staff worked closely with stakeholders, including providers, county representatives, evaluators, and advocates, to develop the scope of work for this project, which was approved by the Commission in October 2014. This same network of subject matter experts was also used to identify an appropriate evaluator for this project.

The primary goal of this project is to assess the progress made in implementing an effective system of care for older adults with serious mental illness and identifying methods to further statewide progress in this area. This assessment will involve gauging the extent to which counties have developed and implemented services tailored to meet the needs of the older adult population. In order to bolster the State's ability to promote improvements in the quality of services for older adults, a series of indicators will be developed focused specifically on older adults with mental health issues. These indicators will be incorporated in future MHSOAC data strengthening and performance monitoring efforts. The evaluation will also identify and document the challenges and barriers to meeting the unique needs of this population, as well as strategies to overcome these challenges. In the event that the full amount of requested funds (e.g. \$400,000) are made available for this project, the evaluation will also examine existing funding level and funding sources directed to the older adult system of care and identify opportunities to address potential workforce and training needs to better serve this population in the near term. Lessons learned and resultant

policy and practice recommendations for how to improve and support older adult mental health programs at the State and local levels will be developed and presented to the Commission.

At this time, the Commission will be asked to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an interagency agreement with the Regents of the University of California; University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), to complete a multi-year evaluation focused on publicly funded community-based programs and services designed to meet the unique needs of older adults with serious mental illness. The proposed principle evaluator for this project is Janet Frank, DrPH, who is currently working at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. Dr. Frank has extensive experience in the fields of geriatrics and gerontology research at both the state and national level. She was involved in the development of the proposed older adults systems of care and is highly knowledgeable about this population and service area.

**Enclosures:** None

**Handouts:** A PowerPoint will be made available at the meeting.

**Recommended Action:** Approve motion as stated below.

**Presenters:** Renay Bradley, Ph.D., Director of Research and Evaluation.

**Motion:** Authorize the MHSOAC Executive Director to enter into an interagency agreement in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 with the Regents of the University of California to evaluate progress made toward implementing an effective system of care for older adults with serious mental illness and identify methods to further this progress across the state.