Proposed Changes to Prevention and Early Intervention Regulations Presented at the July 23, 2015 MHSOAC Meeting

The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) at the September 9, October 14, and December 18, 2014 and April 23, 2015 Commission meetings voted to modify the proposed language of the section listed below that was the subject of the notice published on June 6, 2014 for a 45-day public comment period. Each set of modified regulation language was published and made available for a 15-day public comment period. At the July 23, 2015 meeting the MHSOAC will consider whether to make changes to the language, as modified at the December and April meetings. The proposed changes to be discussed at the July 23, 2015 MHSOAC meeting are set forth below and are shown in underline (new language) and strikeout (deleted language).

Adopt Section 3701 as follows:

Section 3701. Definitions.

(a) "Prevention and Early Intervention regulations" means sections 3200.245 and 3200.246 of Article 2, sections 3510.010, 3560, 3560.010, and 3560.020 of Article 5, and Article 7.

(b) "Program" as used in the Prevention and Early Intervention regulations means a stand-alone organized and planned work, action or approach that evidence indicates is likely to bring about positive mental health outcomes either for individuals and families with or at risk of serious mental illness or for the mental health system.

(c) "Strategy" as used in the Prevention and Early Intervention regulations means a planned and specified method within a Program intended to achieve a defined goal.

(d) "Mental illness" and "mental disorder" as used in the Prevention and Early Intervention regulations means, a syndrome characterized by clinically significant disturbance in an individual's cognition, emotion regulation, or behavior that reflects a dysfunction in the psychological or biological processes underlying mental functioning. Mental illness is usually associated with significant distress or disability in social, occupational, or other important activities. An expected or culturally approved response to a common stressor or loss, such as the death of a loved one, is not a mental illness. Socially variant behavior (e.g. political, religious, or sexual) and conflicts that are primarily between the individual and society are not mental illness unless the variance or conflict results from a dysfunction in the individual, as described above.

(e) "Serious mental illness," "serious mental disorder" and "severe mental illness" as used in the Prevention and Early Intervention regulations means, a mental illness that is severe in degree and persistent in duration, which may cause behavioral functioning which interferes substantially with the primary activities of daily living, and which may result in an inability to maintain stable adjustment and independent functioning without treatment, support, and rehabilitation for a long or indefinite period of time. These mental illnesses include, but are not limited to, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, as well as major affective disorders or other severely disabling mental disorders.

(f) ~~(e)(1)~~The definition in subdivision ~~(e)~~ (d) is applicable to serious emotional disturbance for individuals under the age of 18, other than a primary substance use disorder or developmental disorder, which results in behavior inappropriate to the individual's age according to expected developmental norms.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 5846, Welfare and Institutions Code. Reference: Sections 5600.3, 5840, Welfare and Institutions Code.