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# AGENDA ITEM 8A

Action

May 21, 2015 Commission Meeting

Santa Cruz County Innovation Plans

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**Summary:** The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC or Commission) will consider approval of two Innovation Program funding proposals from Santa Cruz County.

The first proposal, ¡Juntos Podemos! Together We Can! is a new INN proposal. Staff reviewed the county's plan and recommends that the Commission approve a total of \$2,992,961 for five years.

The second proposal, Avenues: Work First for Individuals with Co-Occurring Disorders, is for an extension for an INN program approved by the Commission in 2010. The County is seeking authority to spend \$1,111,054 to complete the program.

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) requires that an INN program does one of the following: a) Introduces new mental health practice or approach, including but not limited to prevention and early intervention; b) Makes a change to an existing mental health practice or approach, including, but not limited to, adaptation for a new setting or community; or c) Introduces to the mental health system a promising community-driven practice/approach, that has been successful in non-mental health contexts or settings.

The law also requires that an INN program addresses one of the following as its primary purpose: (1) Increase access to underserved groups; (2) Increase the quality of services including measurable outcomes; (3) Promote interagency and community collaboration; or (4) Increase access to services. The INN program complies with all MHSA requirements for an INN Program. Both Santa Cruz County proposals adhere to these requirements.

**¡Juntos Podemos!** The Santa Cruz County Mental Health program titled ¡Juntos Podemos! Together We Can! adheres

to these requirements by making a change to an existing mental health practice or approach and has the primary purpose of increasing the quality of services and outcomes by installing peers and family partners on treatment teams to work as a unit with consumers and additionally altering the Prevention and Recovery in Early Psychosis Program by adding peer and family partners, who are not part of the consumers family, to the treatment team.

**Avenues: Work First for Individuals with Co-Occurring Disorders.** Work First is a collaborative approach between Community Connection (Avenues), the Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center (Casa Pacific), the Community Action Board (The CRP Work First Crew), and Santa Cruz County Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. The project focuses on assisting adults with co-occurring disorders to live meaningful, productive lives while achieving greater independence. It accomplishes this by engaging people in active work-related activities versus the more traditional approach of focusing primarily on an individual's symptoms.

When the program went before the Commission in 2010, the Commission approved a single year of funding. Subsequent funding was approved under the terms of AB100, which granted the County Board of Supervisors the authority to approve Innovation funding. That authority was again shifted from the local boards to the Commission with the passage of AB1467.

The County is requesting authorization from the MHSOAC to fund the fifth year of this project in the amount of \$650,000. Additionally the county is requesting \$461,054 in Fiscal Year 2015/2016 to complete the evaluation of the program.

**Presenters:**

- Jose Oseguera, Chief of Plan Review and Committee Operations
- Deborah Lee, Consulting Psychologist

**Enclosures:** Innovation Plan Approval Summary: Santa Cruz County Innovation

**Handout:** A PowerPoint will be presented at the meeting.

**Recommended Action:** Approve the Santa Cruz County's Innovation Program and the additional funding for the previously approved Innovation Program.

**Motion 1:** The MHSOAC approves Santa Cruz County's Innovation Program:

- Name: ¡Juntos Podemos! Together We Can!  
Amount: \$2,992,961  
Program Length: 5 Years

**Motion 2:** The MHSOAC approves Santa Cruz County's final year of funding for their previously approved Innovation Program and request for addition funds to complete the evaluation.

- Name: Work First for Individuals with Co-Occurring Disorders  
Amount: \$1,111,054  
Program Length: 5 years (2011-2016).