

X INFORMATION

AGENDA ITEM: 2

\_\_\_ ACTION REQUIRED

DATE OF MEETING: 10/14/15

PREPARED BY: Desormeaux

DATE MATERIAL PREPARED: 10/12/15

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**AGENDA ITEM:** Introduction to Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission's Improving Crisis Services for California's Children and Youth Project

**ENCLOSURES:** Improving Crisis Services for California's Children and Youth

**OTHER MATERIAL RELATED TO ITEM:** NA

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**Background:** The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission has prioritized Crisis Services for California's Children and Youth as an area of focus. On September 14, 2015 the Improving Crisis Services for California's Children and Youth Advisory Workgroup held its first meeting to review and discuss the advisory workgroup structure and desired outcomes. A second meeting was held on October 7, 2015. Crisis services are a critical area of service provision within the Mental Health System. Service Committee member's participation is desired to assist: 1) in the documentation of the current state of crisis services for children and youth throughout California. 2) Develop recommendations for improving the delivery of crisis services. Identify outcomes and strategies to measure them for children, youth, family members and the communities in which they live.

**Goals of the workgroup are to:**

- Increase policy and decision makers understanding of the nature of mental health crises among children and youth
- Develop a shared understanding among stakeholders of the current crisis service delivery system and its role within the continuum of care in diverse locations and communities throughout the State
- Document challenges and constraints of the existing service delivery system and potential benefits of improved access and coordination (e.g., cost avoidance, prevention, improved individual outcomes, improved communities)
- Increase policy and decision makers understanding of the drivers that impact the accessibility, quality and effectiveness of crisis services for California's children and youth (e.g., State or local policies and/or procedures, funding/costs, licensing, staffing levels, etc.)
- Develop new strategies and/or identify existing models to improve access to effective crisis services for children and youth.