



Senate Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg with MHSOAC Commissioner Tina Wooton and Wellness Recovery Center and Peer Recovery Art Project CEO John Black

February 14, 2013--How has the mental health care system changed since the advent of Proposition 63 (Mental Health Services Act)? When it comes to peer recovery, it seems the answer is: quite a bit.

MHSOAC Commissioner Tina Wooton attended the Consumer Managers meeting in Sacramento on February 13, 2013 to hear how consumer recovery is faring in California. She looked around the table of 25 people reporting out at the state and county level and said, "This is amazing. When we first started some 10 years ago, there were 5 to 7 of us who came to these meetings."

As it grows, consumer involvement is becoming paramount in mental health recovery. Santa Clara County Performance and Quality Improvement Committee Charter calls for "person centered treatment planning" in order to help "individuals in our community affected by mental illness and serious emotional disturbance in achieving their hopes, dreams and quality of life goals".

Also on the horizon is the development of a state certification for peer specialists. Expect to hear much more about that and other aspects of peer recovery in the months ahead.

On Thursday, February 14, Senate Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg spoke at the 2013 California Mental Health & Substance Use Policy Forum sponsored by California Institute for Mental Health (CiMH). About 300 clients, providers, county, state and federal leaders attended the forum in Sacramento. Senator Steinberg talked about the opportunity to use California's Prop 63 as a national model for mental health services, especially for prevention and early intervention.



Managers in Recovery at the Policy Forum