



# Transforming Mental Health Services

## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT Community Orientation Meeting

DATE: August 18, 2005  
TIME: 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM  
LOCATION: Fair Oaks Library -- Stockton

### Attendance

Fifty two in attendance. Interpretation available and offered in Cambodian, Spanish and American Sign Language.

### Questions & Comments:

1. Comments: NAMI is starting a family-to-family class on August 27 at St. Joseph's Medical Center.
2. Question: Family group support meetings are held on the first Thursday and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday at Mental Health.  
Comments: Type in the comment
3. Question: Will this develop new and/or innovative services that are primarily community focused?  
Answer: Yes, the focus will be creating services that the community needs
4. Question: How did you decide on the number of meetings per workgroup? Reference to information going to the Steering Committee for "voting."  
Answer: The State laid out very detailed plans of how planning would occur and our county Behavioral Health Services created a specific document of how planning would occur within the county and multiple communities
5. Question: Is there a plan for how the information will go from the workgroups to the Steering Committee? Reference to "an end product on which the Steering Committee can or will act.
6. Answer: Yes, there is a plan and we know that we want to understand the needs of the community, the barriers to services and the services they think would work the best, but we are still flexible about the process and invite all comments and full participation in the workgroups.
7. Question: Will this money be used for current programs? (will the State be cutting back on current programs so that this money will then go to the cutbacks)

- Answer: No, the legislative intent is clear that the funds are to go for new and/or expanded services. There will be no ‘supplanting’.
8. Question: Is there a philosophy or guiding principle of how much can be allocated to county-based or community-based programs? Will the programs be more county based vs. community based?
- Answer: While we don’t have final guidelines from the state, our thought is that we are very interested in most of the funds going out into the community for direct services
9. Comment: There is a great need for access to outlying geographic area – neighborhood/community based. The lack of adequate transportation is a barrier.
10. Question: At what point is a new program no longer new and will effective programs be able to be self sustaining with these funds.
- Answer: These funds will not disappear; they are dependent on the 1% tax on individuals who annually make greater than 1 million. The State has also created a structure to protect against down years. MHSA provides for a reserve, so the funding can remain more consistent.
11. Question: Are there target dates for when these plans will be implemented?
- Answer: January 1, 2006 submittal; April 15 in place
12. Question: What is the process, after a plan is submitted for consideration, for awarding contracts or approving programs?
- Comment: We need to explain acronyms during meetings.
13. Question: (Rebecca Nabors) Who determines whether a program is an expansion or a new program?
14. Comment: We need a clear definition of “an expansion.”
15. Comment: First 5 has similar challenges of determining an “expansion” or “enhancement.”
16. Comment: (Jesse Nabors): A mental health program can cross a number of lines. What if anything, are you thinking about to expand programs to students.
17. Comment: (Jesse Nabors) in the example of school funding, we need to make sure that most of the funds go to services for the children and not to administration.
18. Question: Is there a certain allocation between new and expanded?
- Answer: There are no percentages set by the Mental Health Services Act that prescribe how much of the money is spent on the expansion of existing programs vs. new programs. Of course, all of Mental Health Services Act funds are intended to be only for the expansion of services or for new services. The Steering Committee, with a membership that is more than half consumers and family members, will ultimately review and then decide on the basis of available funding (estimated to be about 8 million dollars) which expanded programs or new programs identified by the workgroups should be funded. Then, the actual budget for those

expanded or new programs will be developed by San Joaquin County Behavioral Health Services and submitted to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

19. Question: How and who decides how programs going to be selected?

Answer: Workgroups will come up with there proposals that will be sent to the Steering Committee. We anticipate that there will be more asked for than will be able to be funded. After the Steering Committee prioritizes and selects the proposed services, it will go to the Mental Health Board. A public hearing will be conducted to get feedback on the Plan with a 30 day period open for input. The Plan will be revised and edited as needed from input and will then be presented to the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors and then to the State. Funding will occur approximately 90 days after the State receives it. Consumers are integral to the process and consumer and family members are in workgroups, the Steering Committee and the Mental Health Board.

20. Question: How are we monitoring the effectiveness of our current programs? Are deadlines going to be set for determining effectiveness?

Answer: This is also a directive from the State that programs are becoming increasingly outcome based, for example measurement of days out of the home, incarceration, school performance, and days of employment.

21. Question: Will dollars be available for auxiliary, concrete things such as housing and transportation?

Answer: Yes.

22. Comment: At a national conference, MHSA was recognized as being one of the first endeavors of its kind in the country.

23. Comment: Some young adults may have already qualified for services through special education programs.