



PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (MHSA)



INFORMATION SHEET

What is Prevention and Early Intervention? (PEI)

Prevention and Early Intervention is one of five components of Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) passed by California voters in 2004. California's historic commitment to prevention and early intervention through Prop 63 moves the mental health system towards a "help-first" instead of a "fail-first" strategy. PEI identifies individuals at the risk of or indicating early signs of mental illness or emotional disturbance and links them to treatment and other resources. PEI creates partnerships with schools, justice systems, primary care, and a wide range of social services and community groups and locates services in convenient places where people go for other routine activities. Twenty percent of Stanislaus County MHSA funding is dedicated to Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) programs.

PEI Results:

- Prevent mental illness from becoming severe and disabling
- Reduced stigma & discrimination
- Increased timely access to underserved & unserved populations
- Decreased negative outcomes that may result from untreated mental illness
 - Suicides
 - Incarcerations
 - School failure or dropouts
 - Unemployment
 - Homelessness
 - Removal of children from their homes
 - Prolonged suffering

These results are expected to be attained by first achieving shorter-term results in the following areas:

- Increased mental health awareness
- Increased knowledge about mental health, mental illness (SMI/SED), and early signs of mental illness
- Increased engagement and support for individuals at risk for SMI/SED
- Reduced risk factors for SMI/SED
- Developed/strengthened protective factors
- Individuals exhibiting onset of SMI/SED or with MH issues and their families are:
 - Engaged
 - Supported
 - Screened/referred
 - Treated in a timely manner

PEI Strategies:

PEI programs may employ one or more of the following strategies.

- Mental health training & education
- Outreach and engagement
- Community support
- Community capacity building
- Screening and referral
- Peer support
- Brief counseling intervention