

Stanislaus County Behavioral Health & Recovery Services
A Mental Health , Alcohol and Drug Service Organization

MHSA NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 8
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- More MHSA Funding Available!!
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...a newsletter to share information about Stanislaus County 's Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) programs with staff, consumers, stakeholders, other county departments and the community at large.

MORE MHSA FUNDING AVAILABLE!!

by Karen Hurley, MFT, MHSA Coordinator

We are pleased to announce that additional funds have been made available to counties for the following MHSA components:

- Community Services and Supports (DMH Info. Notice #08-19)
- Workforce Education and Training (DMH Info. Notice #08-13 and #08-20)
- Capital Facilities and Technology Needs (DMH Info. Notice #08-19)
- Prevention and Early Intervention (DMH Info. Notice not yet released)

Typically DMH issues Information Notices to accomplish several things:

- Encumber funds for county use*
- Give notice that funds are available
- Show the amount available to each county
- Describe the type of planning and documents needed to request the funds

*It is useful to note that once funds are announced as available to counties they are considered "encumbered" at the State level, which means the funds are not available to be used by the State for any other purposes.

Having additional funds available for the two approved plans (CSS and WET) and additional funds for two plans currently in development is fantastic! Having gone through this process a few times since January 2005 let me see if I can explain briefly part of what is required:

- Expansion of already approved programs is based on needs identified in the original Three-Year Plan stakeholder planning process. An opportunity for stakeholder input on the proposed expansion is available during a 30-day review and comment period prior to submission to DMH.
- New programs based on needs identified in the original stakeholder planning process also include additional opportunity for stakeholder input during a 30-day review and comment period.
- New programs not based on needs identified in the original stakeholder process require a new stakeholder process, a 30-day review and comment period and a public hearing.

[You may access complete DMH Information Notices at: http://www.dmh.ca.gov/Prop_63/MHSA/default.asp]

Karen Hurley, Carol Jo Hargreaves and Jim Hurley are working together to ensure that our community gains access to resources in a timely fashion. In partnership with others, Karen has primary responsibility for initial planning of new components (PEI, CAP/IT, Innovations). In partnership with others, Carol Jo and Jim have primary responsibility for ongoing implementation of already approved plans (CSS and WET, respectively) and for accessing additional funds for them.

What this all means:

- Enough funding for CSS operations to continue
- More funds for WET implementation
- Funds to implement a new IT system that includes other technology improvements for consumers and family members
- Funds to develop a plan for PEI that will set up prevention and early intervention programs to start moving our public behavioral health system from a "fail first" to a "help first" approach and that will alter how emotional health is regarded in the community...forever

Please contact us if you have questions.



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FAMILY PARTNERSHIP CENTER

by Rhonda Parker, Behavioral Health Advocate

The original Family Partnership Center (FPC) program was expanded with Mental Health Services Act General System Development money. The MHSA-funded program is called “Families Together”. Located at 421 E. Morris Avenue in Modesto, the Family Partnership Center is a four-program collaborative providing a variety of supportive services for children and their families. The Family Partnership Center houses four programs: BHRS Kinship Support Services Program (KSSP), Community Services Agency Kinship Program, BHRS Parent Partnership Project (PPP), and BHRS Family Partnership Mental Health Team. We also partner with various community-based organizations, including Sierra Vista Child and Family Services, Center for Human Services, Girl Scouts, Al-Anon, H.S.A./Public Health, and Modesto Junior College as part of our efforts to provide one-stop shopping for families.

In an attempt to provide increased access to families who are un- or underserved, staff from the Family Partnership Center collaborates with Stanislaus County Office of Education’s SELPA (Special Education Local Plan Area), and Modesto City Schools, identifying families in need and linking them with additional services. We participate on the (EDAT) Emotionally Disturbed Assessment Team, the Needs Assessment Committee, and SARB (School Attendance Review Board). Each group meets weekly, bringing the families together with school administrators, community agency representatives, and Behavioral Health and Recovery ED Team members.

For Debbie* and her family, one such EDAT meeting resulted in a referral for services here at the Family Partnership Center. After an initial meeting with her one-to-one Parent Advocate, Debbie was enthusiastic about services. She began by attending a weekly evening support group for parents and kinship caregivers. She participates fully; giving and receiving support, and has developed supportive relationships with other members of the group.

While Debbie is in support group, her children are busy in Interactive Children’s Activities and Girl Scouts, both on site. The children also attend the Family Partnership Center’s After School Program twice a week, receiving individual assistance with homework and participating in group social skills instruction. Treats for the whole family include the monthly Movie Night, special activities, and monthly Respite Day. Debbie practices wellness by balancing daily stressors with scheduled respite and fun. She regularly attends Friday Morning Social, Flix ‘n Friends Monthly Movie Matinee just for the adults, and gets a much-needed break on Respite Day. In between these activities Debbie often drops in at Maggie’s Place for quiet relaxation.

Debbie recently shared that much of her enthusiasm stems from a sense of belonging because her family has never been asked to leave the Family Partnership Center. Families with children with emotional disturbance, behavioral challenges, and mental health problems often experience rejection and social isolation. Debbie appreciates the acceptance she and her children have experienced here and has shared that hope and optimism with other parents. The fact that Debbie’s struggling family was connected to meaningful family services through our MHSA outreach efforts is a terrific example of what we can accomplish for families!

* = not her real name

PM Update



WHOSE NUMBER TO USE?

by Brenda Kachel, Performance Measurement

Question: On the Key Event Tracking form (KET) used in Full Service Partnership programs, whose Staff Number should be entered as the official Partnership Service Coordinator (PSC) I.D.? Is it the point person assigned as the PSC or the person making necessary corrections to the form?

~Lynn Bristow, Senior Access Resource Team

Answer: Enter the Staff Number of the point person assigned to the client regardless of which MHSA Outcomes Form is being completed (PAF, KET or Quarterly). The point person is the person listed in Insyst; usually the most frequent provider of care. When clients are seen by more than one provider in a program this can become confusing. It is important to be consistent in identifying the point person/primary provider until another KET is completed to change Partnership Service Coordinators.

To change Partnership Service Coordinators, use a Key Event Tracking form. Enter the Date of Partnership Service Coordinator Change and the NEW Partnership Service Coordinator ID in the spaces provided (under the “Change in Administrative Information” section of the form). Enter the actual date the change occurred. This date must be on or before the “Date Completed” entered in the section of the form.

If you have questions about this procedure or anything else related to MHSA Outcomes Forms, feel free to contact Performance Measurement staff.



The MHSA-CSS (Communicate, Share and Support) Meeting is held the 4th Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Redwood Room, 800 Scenic Drive (unless otherwise notified).

If you have questions or suggestions regarding MHSA, please forward them by I.D. mail or email to: Carol Jo Hargreaves, BHRS/Administration, e-mail: chargrea@co.stancounty.com; Karen Hurley, BHRS/Administration, e-mail: khurley@co.stancounty.com