

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

# MHSA NEWSLETTER

*Happy Holidays*

Volume 1, Issue 8  
December 2007

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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.*



## West Modesto King Kennedy Neighborhood Collaborative

**“Because we know them and trust them, we will take their advice.”**

*- Focus Group Participant, speaking about WMKKNC staff*

By Stacie Bradford

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) emphasizes the importance of consumer-directed services provided in community settings. To successfully implement the MHSA, BHRS is partnering with organizations that are not just *in* the community, but *of* the community. The West Modesto King Kennedy Neighborhood Collaborative is an organization of the community, staffed by people from the community who have long-standing relationships with their neighbors. At the Collaborative, we build on our one-to-one relationships with community members and local agency staff to build genuine understanding about the struggles, priorities, and solutions expressed by our diverse residents.

Historically underserved, folks in West Modesto have consistently expressed their hopes for expanded, community-based mental health services. Input was first gathered in 1991 through the Stanislaus County Minority Health Coalition community survey. When the Collaborative was formalized in 1996, we responded to these voices of our community and worked to increase linguistically appropriate services in the community. In 2001, with the opening of the Paradise Medical Offices, a mental health services advisory group brought Collaborative and other community members to the table to help shape services. Now, thanks to the MHSA, our staff time is shifting from helping consumers navigate cumbersome systems outside the neighborhood, to engaging them in designing local supports and services that are culturally relevant and effective in helping them along the road to recovery and wellness.

**“The Collaborative has removed much of the stigma of seeking mental health services.”**

*- Focus Group Participant*

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.

**REMINDER: No meeting in December.**

## MHSA Implementation Study: Phases I, II & III

By Karen Hurley, MHSA Coordinator

**“We are on the dawn of great things”**

- *Community Stakeholder*

A study team, comprised of eight individuals including consumers, family members, and persons with mental health management, cultural competence and evaluation expertise, is under contract with the California Department of Mental Health to develop a report that summarizes the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) community planning experiences in California. There are three phases of the study. Phase I of the study covers the state-level CSS planning process. Phase II of the study covers county-level planning and early implementation of the Community Services and Supports (CSS) component of the MHSA.

Seven counties were selected for their diversity in geography and demographics. All are early implementers, with a CSS plan approved by June 2006. Stanislaus County was the first county with an approved CSS plan in October 2005.

Study methods for Phase II included a review of each county’s MHSA plan and subsequent documents, as well as extensive interviews with a wide range of county staff and community stakeholders. September 11 & 12, 2006, the study team visited Stanislaus County and conducted two days of interviews with over 75 stakeholders who had participated in the local community planning process and/or early implementation workgroups. It was a very successful site visit that established a format for other counties to follow. An eight-page Executive Summary of the report of Phase II report is available, as well as the full report (74 pages) at [www.stanislausmhsa.com](http://www.stanislausmhsa.com).

“All the counties expressed the belief that the community planning process has developed a foundation for future stronger collaborations with community stakeholders.” – *MHSA Study Conclusion*

Phase III is another phase of county-level study that will provide interesting and important information about how implementation is progressing, and whether or not counties are moving toward the goals of MHSA and embodying key elements of the CSS component throughout their systems. Stanislaus County is scheduled for a site visit January 9 & 10, 2008. Announcement of specific times/locations for stakeholder groups will be made soon. If you would like to participate in the site study, contact Teresa Garibay, 525-6247/email [tgribay@stancounty.com](mailto:tgribay@stancounty.com).



Sponsored by Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors

## El Concilio

By Marcos Gallardo, MSW

Hola y feliz diciembre. Just a little note on El Concilio’s Latino Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (LBHRS) and our progress in Stanislaus County. LBHRS continues to collaborate with different agencies throughout the outskirts of the county as well as in the City of Modesto. LBHRS continues to provide presentations to the community utilizing the Promotores method of educating the community about behavioral health and recovery services. We have been successful in attaining our goal and look forward to furthering our mission.

Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) and the community have generally welcomed us with open arms and often want to work with us. These collaborative partnerships have given us the opportunity to establish support groups in various sites in the county.

A Women’s Depression Group was also established in collaboration with Health Net Services in Modesto but has been suspended until January 2008. All groups are open with the exception of groups being held at PACE. Referrals are welcome and you may refer clients by calling Marcos N. Gallardo, MSW or Ana Perez, MSW at 338-5715.

LBHRS was also given the opportunity to work with the Gay Lesbian Bi-sexual Transgender (GLBT) population in collaboration with Stanislaus County PRIDE Resource Center. The Board of Directors unanimously approved our proposal to establish two support groups, one in English and one in Spanish. Plans are currently being discussed.

On top of everything else, December is a busy month for nosotros. On December 1, the Mexican Consulate visited El Concilio, as they do every year to help the Latino community with their matrículas and other immigration documents. People began lining up at 3 a.m. and the last person left around 12:30 a.m. the next day. It was another successful event for the Mexican Consulate and us. But we were muy cansados! Feliz Navidad y Próspero Año Nuevo.



### Form Completion:

In order for MHSA forms to go through the Teleform system and be ready for transfer to the State in a timely manner, each applicable question must be answered. This reduces the number of clarification requests generated to the programs and the Teleforms operator, thus preventing from having to make adjustments and phone calls to staff. Call Performance Measurement if you have questions.

*If you have questions or suggestions regarding MHSA, please forward them by I.D. mail or email to:*

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