

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

MHSA NEWSLETTER

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- MHSA in Stanislaus County: MHSA Implementation Study Site Visit
- New Brochure: "California Counties Transforming Local Mental Health Systems" is now available.
- PM Update: New MHSA FSP Quarterly Review

...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.

Garden Gate Respite

By Susan Trudell, Assistant Program Director

Turning Point Respite at Garden Gate is an MHSA Outreach and Engagement program designed to connect previously under-served populations or currently at-risk individuals with appropriate community resources. It is located at 605 and 609 5th Street in Modesto. We provide a safe, comfortable, homelike environment for individuals who are homeless and appear to be mentally ill. Our purpose is to help these individuals access needed services as quickly as possible. The program is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with 'round-the-clock staff supervision. Turning Point Respite is a 9-bed facility separated into two components. The first component assists individuals who appear to have a mental illness but who have never been connected to services. These individuals stay 1 to 7 days, with an average length of 3-4 days. The second component offers extended stays for individuals who have connected with mental health services and are waiting to go into housing or treatment. Stays in this part of the program can be from 5-20 days depending on the circumstances of each individual.

Staff at the Respite Center is warm, friendly, and compassionate, offering a haven where individuals can have a home-cooked meal, take a hot shower, and feel welcome and secure during their stay. Turning Point continues to employ a culturally diverse staff with mental health consumers holding 93% of the permanent staff positions. Respite staff provides client-driven advocacy and support within a "moving toward wellness" framework, often from a "first-hand" perspective. They also facilitate community collaboration within an atmosphere of cultural awareness, sensitivity, and tolerance.

The Respite Center works in conjunction with TeleCare Recovery Access Center, a Full Service Partnership program which provides outreach into the community. Law enforcement is also a major referral source and utilizes our facility to minimize the negative impact of homelessness and mental illness for individuals and the community. Respite has recently added a more active Independent Living Skills component to support individuals in achieving their housing and recovery goals. This part of the program offers education in living skills tailored to individual needs, both individually and in groups. This component was added to specifically address difficulties consumers had maintaining recently established connections due to lack of these skills. If you would like further information about the program, please call (209) 341-0718.

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.

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Implementation Study Site Visit II

By Karen Hurley, MHSA Coordinator

A BIG THANK YOU!!

to everyone who participated in
MHSA Study Interviews on January 9th and 10th

Because of your enthusiastic participation, the MHSA Study Team visit was very successful. They commented, more than once, on how Stanislaus is really paying attention to ongoing integration of MHSA essential elements and it shows in the culture of the organization at all levels.

In two short days, eighteen interviews were successfully conducted with 91 people consisting of service recipients, agency/community partners, Mental Health Board members, and BHRS staff. Special thanks to the approximately 60% of the participants who self-identified as consumers and/or family members, by sharing your personal stories and opinions you left a lasting impression on the study team.

"From a consumer's perspective, you guys are doing a great job at all levels truly in the spirit of MHSA."

~MHSA Study Team comment

Visits to program sites were the highlights of this Study Team visit. Two General System Development-funded programs hosted interviews on-site: Families Together and Josie's Place. Another highlight was participation by the Consumer Family Member Empowerment and Employment Center (CFMEEC) team and member. There was robust participation by consumers and family members of all ages. The content was rich with descriptions of lived experiences, successes and thoughts on future directions. The Study Team commented on how high the energy is and how clear it is that consumer- and family member-driven values are alive in these programs. As a showcase of what CFMEEC is now offering in employment training opportunities, their catering service "Garden of Eat'n" did an awesome job with food service for us! (Try their herb chicken and mashed potatoes – it rocks!)

The Study Team finished interviews with a lasting impression that people in and around the organization at all levels, are dedicated and creative in how they are implementing MHSA services and supports.



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CALIFORNIA COUNTIES TRANSFORMING LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEMS

NEW BROCHURE NOW AVAILABLE!

DMH, CMHDA, and CiMH partnered to produce a new large-format, colorful and informative brochure describing implementation of the Community Services and Supports (CSS) component of MHSA. In the brochure you will find a description of ways CSS funding was used to implement core programs in California communities, from Full Service Partnerships to Crisis and Warm Lines. Each type of service is described by critical concern, service expansion, and number of counties providing the service. A large map highlights MHSA services provided in each county and displays quotes from MHSA clients who have benefited from them. You may request a copy of the new brochure by contacting MHSA Planning & Implementation at (209) 525-6247. Transformation is underway!

PM Update



NEW MHSA FSP QUARTERLY REVIEW REPORTS by Brenda Kachel

Performance Measurement will soon be rolling out a Quarterly Report for MHSA FSP Programs. This new report will help you determine when Quarterlies are due and which ones have already been received in the Teleforms database. The State Department of Mental Health recently advised us that Quarterly forms may be completed as early as 15 days prior and 30 days past the due date. (Good news! This is a change from 15 days pre/post previously established, which actually gives you 15 more days past the "official" due date to complete the Quarterly form.)

The new Quarterly Report will list each client enrolled in your FSP program, Staff ID number, opening date, closing date (if applicable), completion dates of submitted Quarterlies, as well as due dates for Quarterlies to submit in upcoming months. This list is a tool you may use as a tickler and with which you will be able to see if there are missing Quarterly documents that need to be submitted.

Occasionally Quarterly documents are submitted that do not comply with due date parameters. If there are any of these, they will be listed at the end of each client listing.

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

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