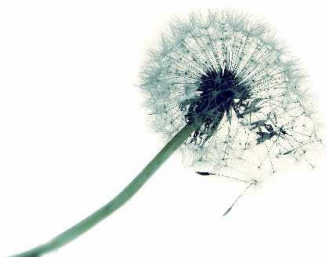


MHSA NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 1
May 2007



MAY CONTENTS:

- Director's Welcome
- Featured Program: CFE&EC (GSD)
- Performance Measurement Q/A

...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.

WELCOME TO THE FIRST

BHRS Mental Health Services Act Newsletter!

This will be a venue to share all the good news about implementation of MHSA programming in Stanislaus County. Begun in 2005, our work toward establishing Community Services and Supports is now yielding good results for many of our consumers and family members. Eleven new program initiatives have been in "startup" mode since early 2006. As we complete our first year of bringing these enhanced services to our community, we're looking ahead to expanding programs and filling in some of the gaps that exist in our stakeholders' plan to reduce the lack of access that exists in parts of our community.

It's only through partnerships with consumers, family members, and others that BHRS can meet the charge of MHSA and move toward being an organization oriented toward health and recovery in our community.

We are pleased to bring this information to all of you; we hope you like what you see. If you have suggestions for the editor, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Denise C. Hunt, RN, MFT, Director

FACT:

The Mental Health Services Act (also known as Proposition 63) was passed by California voters in November 2004. MHSA imposes a 1% income tax on individuals with incomes over \$1 million. Statewide this is estimated to generate approximately \$250M the first year, \$700M the next, and increasing amounts thereafter.

What does GSD stand for?

"General System Development" = a type of MHSA funding used to improve infrastructure (programs, services, supports) for the identified initial Full Service Partnership (FSP) populations and other clients.

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

CONSUMER AND FAMILY EMPLOYMENT AND EMPOWERMENT CENTER

By Noel Silva, Turning Point Community Programs

Behavioral Health and Recovery Services and Turning Point Community Programs created a partnership for delivering services to individuals and family members with problems associated with psychiatric disabilities. The Consumer and Family Employment and Empowerment Center is located at 800 Scenic Drive, Bldg. 4 in Modesto, CA. This program is one of the new General System Development Programs funded by the Mental Health Services Act.

The Consumer and Family Employment and Empowerment Center provides behavioral health consumers and family members a safe and friendly environment where individuals can flourish emotionally while developing skills. Our staff is friendly, knowledgeable of community resources and always ready to help anyone who asks. We have a computer lab for those needing to gain skills, look for jobs, or search the Web for resources. This Center also provides a meeting space for trainings and support groups.

Our staff at the Consumer and Family Employment and Empowerment Center comes from different backgrounds and experiences. This provides a culturally diverse environment for those individuals we are privileged to serve each day.

We most recently had a young man come through our door who was homeless, had no job and was looking for a place to "belong". His name is Johnnie Sanchez, IV. Here's what Johnnie says: "The change Turning Point made in my life started the day I walked into the front door of 800 Scenic Drive, Bldg. 4. I was welcomed with open arms and a friendly smile by Celedina Valenzuela, a Life Skills Counselor at the Consumer and Family Employment and Empowerment Center. It was at that point I knew I was at the right place. I was shown all the opportunities and pointed in the right direction and, with relentless effort, I kept moving forward and became employed by Turning Point Community Programs." As his level of skills and experience began to unfold, Johnnie was quickly hired on as a Crew Supervisor through our Employment Services Program which is also located on-site. Johnnie states, "Now I have this beautiful opportunity to help others help themselves become empowered. As a result, my life is filled with joy and happiness. I'm thankful and grateful for Turning Point Community Programs and their employees who helped others and me make a positive change in our lives".

Johnnie is just one of our success stories. If you would like to hear more, come in, sit down, have a cup of coffee and get to know some of the people who have begun their journey with us at the Consumer and Family Employment and Empowerment Center.

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

Carol Jo Hargreaves, BHRS/Administration
Email: chargrea@co.stanislaus.ca.us

Karen Hurley, BHRS/Administration
Email: khurley@co.stanislaus.ca.us

MHSA IN STANISLAUS COUNTY

By Karen Hurley, MHSA Coordinator

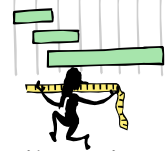
On January 24, 2006, Stanislaus County was pleased to be the first county in California to receive approval of a Three Year Plan for MHSA Community Services and Supports. Implementation of the proposed eleven new or expanded services began immediately. Implementation workgroups were formed for each of the work plans: 5 Full Service Partnerships, 4 General System Developments and 2 Outreach & Engagements. Additionally, work groups were formed in support areas such as: human resources, data management, contracts, facilities, and performance measurement.

Work groups in all areas sought to include and were successful in engaging stakeholder participation and input. Many consumers and family members joined BHRS leaders and managers in development of these new and innovative programs.

There were some implementation challenges along the way. The challenges encompassed several areas including: not having enough infrastructure for direct service systems to be expanded; data collection and management; a budget crisis related to state realignment funding; human resources and training challenges. Though implementation of some programs was delayed 3-4 months due to these challenges, all programs were up and running by August 2006. This is a phenomenal accomplishment for BHRS.

Congratulations, one and all!

PM Q & A



QUESTION from Carrie Becker, Juvenile Justice

I do assessments for the JJ team, not only on potential MHSA clients. I do an open/close on those who do not meet criteria for our program. Do I still need to do PAF's on those clients?

ANSWER from Performance Measurement

Good question, Carrie. The answer is No, a PAF is not done on clients who are not partnering with us to receive ongoing care. Only on those clients who both parties agree that care will continue.

You may have recently received a "Missing PAF" report listing some of those "assessment" cases. We in PM cannot always determine what is and is not an assessment. We would like to be able to say a client opened/closed the same day and not reopened shortly thereafter was an assessment that did not result in a continuing client. Unfortunately, not all programs keep their data entry up to date. So we must rely on the programs to confirm episode openings without PAF's were either Assessments only or that program staff will get the missing PAF faxed in a.s.a.p.