

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

MHSA NEWSLETTER

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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.

**TELECARE WESTSIDE SHOP
(STANISLAUS HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM)
By Linda Sanders, Coordinator**

Westside SHOP, funded by MHSA (Mental Health Services Act), opened in April 2006 and serves individuals ages 18 years and older. During the beginning months of the Westside SHOP program, many hours were spent finding culturally diverse underserved clients and building collaborative relationships with this community. We are currently serving 40 clients, reflecting the underserved populations of West Modesto who were homeless or at risk for homelessness along with having a serious mental illness.

Westside SHOP staff is a dedicated group that definitely embraces the “whatever it takes approach” motto of an ACT model (Assertive Community Treatment) and offers 24/7 team access. The staff of Westside SHOP reflects diverse cultural backgrounds and ethnicity and many staff members are bilingual. Services include support in reaching goals in various areas of our clients' lives: housing, physical health, employment, education, money management, access to transportation or other personal goals.

The staff of Westside SHOP hold the belief that every client has potential for reaching their own hopes and dreams. Often, the path taken is riddled with obstacles such as the journey that Jane (not her real name) began in 2006. Jane is a 35-year-old, divorced, Caucasian woman who was diagnosed with Major Depression and PTSD. Prior to enrollment, Jane spent almost one full year in a dark room, mostly staying in bed. Others had to bring her food. She experienced anxiety and panic attacks when going out in public. Jane is now very social, visiting her grandmother and other family members regularly. She currently is in transitional housing and is doing well. She experiences less anxiety and fewer panic attacks now and is looking forward to returning to work soon.

Westside SHOP often provides services in the community. Groups offered include Dual Diagnosis, Art Therapy, Anger Management, and Healthy Living along with both individual and group therapy. All staff members provide outreach to the community in order to connect with potential clients. Staff also collaborate with other agencies on the Westside. Being connected with our clients' families and support systems is a high priority.

Telecare has always placed a high value on its employees' own experience as consumers, throughout all job classifications. We believe this has helped us develop a group of staff that is non-judgmental and understanding of the recovery process. We welcome you to come visit us at 1601 Yosemite Boulevard in Modesto.

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 Housing Program

By Karen Hurley, MHSA Coordinator

Safe, affordable housing is a basic need in all of our lives, and it is essential to individuals and their families who are working on recovery from serious mental illness. The MHSA Housing Program presents an opportunity for this model of housing and services to be expanded, and it will contribute to transforming the way mental health services are delivered for individuals with mental illness and their families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Statewide, \$400 million dollars has been committed to this component of MHSA.

This is a completely new kind of partnership between California Department of Mental Health (DMH) and California Housing Finance Agency (Cal HFA). Locally and statewide, this will allow partnerships between counties and housing agencies that have never existed before. To receive the funding, counties must have a fully executed performance contract (Stanislaus County has this) and submit an MHSA Housing Program Application. In order to submit the application, a great deal of preparation is necessary. Regional workshops have been scheduled to review and discuss the application process and requirements for the MHSA Housing Program. Target audience for these workshops are county mental health departments and housing developers, however, any interested stakeholder may register and attend. One of the workshops will be held in Modesto on November 8, 2007, location to be determined soon.

To become more familiar with this component of MHSA, please review documents posted on the DMH website: <http://www.dmh.ca.gov/mhsa/Housing.asp>

TRANSFORMATION: A "Living Room" for Crisis Services

META Services, a non-profit organization in Phoenix, reinvented itself from traditional behavioral health provider to recovery based services. In doing so, they learned they had to do more than just tinker with what already existed—they had to transform! They created a more comfortable home-like environment in a living room setting with couches, a TV, a refrigerator with snacks, and private rooms with futons for resting. For more detail, see: www.Behavioral.net



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THANK YOU!

We thank the following FSP and AB-2034 staff for attending the mandatory KET Clarification Report Training conducted by Performance Measurement on October 4. This was a brief but important information-sharing session and opportunity for staff to learn about forms changes and the new KET Clarification Report process.

Westside SHOP

Elizabeth Bennett

Donna Wagner

IFT

Aaron Martinez

Teresa Gonzalez

Juvenile Justice

Rosa Soto

Carrie Becker

SART

Demi Laughlin

Lynn Bristow

MaryJane Mico

Health/Mental Health Team

Phil Hoile

Donna Payne

Mary Aguirre

TAYA (AB-2034)

Elena Carrillo

Jesus Favela

If you have any questions regarding any of the MHSA outcome forms, please feel free to call Performance Measurement. Brenda Kachel at 525-6049, Carol Locke at 525-5347, or Debbie Crow at 525-6054.

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

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