

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.

JOSIE'S PLACE DROP-IN CENTER FOR TRANSITION AGE YOUNG ADULTS

By Jim Hurley, Coordinator

Josie's Place Drop-In Center, funded by the Mental Health Services Act, opened in May 2006. We proudly named the Center to honor Josie Flores, Administrative Clerk for the Young Adult Service Team, who was tragically killed in an automobile accident.

Josie's Place is more than a site or a building. It is a membership center where young people diagnosed with a mental illness can feel safe and access essential services related to wellness and recovery. It is a place to belong and to participate with peers. The Center offers support and resources for youth intended to improve quality of life or assist youth in accomplishing what is important to them.

The BHRS Transition Age Young Adult Service Team (TAYA) is co-located at the Drop-In Center. TAYA provides sixty "clients" with billable and direct services; Josie's Place "members" receive non-billable services and support. Thus far this arrangement has been excellent for offering both services and support in the same place. Currently we have over 172 members and are growing strong. In the spirit of MHSA many of our members are young people of color and young people historically unserved or underserved for behavioral health services.

Drop-In Center membership is open to people between the ages of 16 and 25. For young people ages 16 and 17, Center membership is available with parental permission.

Services Offered at the Drop-In Center:

Drop-In Center services include peer support, information and resources about jobs, housing and entitlements, a clothes closet and computer lab, recreational activities on site and social activities in the community. Young adult members may volunteer to serve on the Young Adult Advisory Committee (YAAC), a client-driven advisory council established during the MHSA planning process that gives young adults a voice in decision-making and operation of the Center. This committee of young people has provided input, direction and partnership from the onset and the Center is greatly indebted to them.

Josie's Place is located at 1208—9th Street (near 9th & L) and is open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. The Drop-In Center is closed Saturday and Sunday.

Feel free to visit us, take a tour and support a young person near you!

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.

TRANSFORMATION

By Carol Jo Hargreaves; including excerpts from
 "A Vision of Transformation" by Denise Hunt, BHRS Director
 Document dated 8/27/2007

Webster's Dictionary says "transform" means:

1. To alter markedly the appearance or form of
2. To change the nature, function, or condition of
3. To convert, revolutionize

Transformation is the guiding principle of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). According to its designers, MHSA is to be a complete transformation of the mental health system, not simply an increase in funding for the old system. MHSA is a new approach that brings into action community stakeholders, prevention and early intervention, workforce education and training, and a housing component.

Stanislaus County is moving from FAIL First to HELP First. In January 2006, when Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services implemented its first MHSA program through the Community Services and Supports component, local transformation was begun. Unfortunately, while we received new funds through MHSA, we also lost funds due to increased expenses and budget shortfalls. Moreover, many of the services we are required to fund under MHSA are more expensive than the services we are losing. Available funding does not match the need for services and a large number of individuals receive no services despite their need.

In order to create a mentally healthy community and realize the MHSA promise BHRS must transform its understanding of behavioral health services and how we serve the community. This cannot be done through mandating a single County department to do the work – it must be a community commitment. BHRS can no longer work separately from the community to achieve its goals of promoting wellness, resiliency, and recovery. BHRS must shift toward being in the business of developing and enhancing the capacity of communities in Stanislaus County to support recovery and wellness for members of those communities. BHRS needs to be in the business of collaborating to deliver outcomes, not services. This requires a different organizational identity, a different place in the community. It also requires that BHRS change our relationship with the community – become more of a partner and less of a provider.

BHRS began moving toward increased partnerships through its early MHSA Outreach and Engagement projects. Community-based providers and ethnic organizations will be included in our Workforce Education and Training Plan and community integration will come closer to reality through the upcoming Prevention/Early Intervention Plan. To achieve the transformation called for by the Mental Health Services Act and demanded by Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors' vision of a healthy community, these efforts are only the beginning of a much broader change effort.

A Vision for the Workforce of the Future!

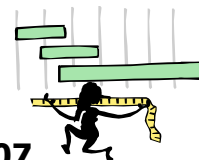
By Karen Hurley, MHSA Coordinator

The Mental Health Services Act has a Workforce Education and Training component. This component includes funding for short-term goals as well as long-term funding that will sustain workforce growth locally and state-wide. There are five "actions" to be funded to address shortages in the workforce:

- Workforce Staffing Support
- Training and Technical Assistance
- Mental Health Career Pathways
- Residency, Internship Programs
- Financial Incentive Programs

Counties do not have to fund all five "actions." Local stakeholder process paired with a detailed Workforce Needs Assessment (Exhibit 3 in planning guidelines) will aid in determining local strategies. In Stanislaus County, planning for this component has begun with key staff attending training on how to complete the extensive Workforce Needs Assessment. Key stakeholder meetings will be conducted in September, October and November. We are working toward the goal of submitting a Workforce Education and Training plan to the State by February 2008.

PM Update



REQUIRED TRAINING, 10/4/07

Who? AB2034 and MHSA FSP clinicians, coordinators, and case managers and anyone else involved in completing PAF, KET, Quarterly forms

When? Thursday, October 4. Three times available, please select one: 10:00-11:00, 1:00-2:00, 4:00-5:00

Where? Redwood Room, 800 Scenic

Why? KET Clarification Report

How to Register? Complete and email/fax/ID mail Registration Form to Debbie Crow, BHRS Performance Measurement. OR call Debbie Crow, 525-6054. Fax: 525-6053.

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

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Karen Hurley, BHRS/Administration

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