

MHSA Newsletter

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

...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.



MHSA Five Essential Elements:

- Community Collaboration
- Cultural Competence
- Client/Family-Driven Mental Health Systems
- Wellness for Recovery & Resilience
- Integrated Service Experiences

Turning Point Garden Gate Respite

By June Newman, Garden Gate Respite

There are no licensed clinicians, psychologists, nurses, or psychiatrists on staff at the Respite house, even though it is a Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) program. Instead of licenses, the qualifications of at least 90% of the staff at Respite include first-hand experience as mental health consumers or as close family members of someone with a mental illness. This lived experience makes staff well-qualified to understand and do what is needed at Respite.

Historically, individuals who are homeless and have a mental illness can be difficult to engage due to mistrust of others, distrust of "the system," fear of being labeled as mentally ill, or the hopelessness and isolation of feeling no one else understands or has had the same experiences. As an MHSA Outreach and Engagement program, Turning Point Respite at Garden Gate does not offer "treatment" in the traditional sense. Instead, we collaborate with the Telecare Outreach team to provide outreach to the mentally ill who are homeless or at-risk for homelessness in an effort to engage and connect them to resources and services in the community and at BHRS.

The homelike atmosphere at Respite allows staff to connect with our guests in a non-clinical setting; to listen and share stories and experiences on the road to recovery. On the common ground of shared experiences, seeds of help, hope, and healing may be cultivated and nurtured. Eventually this may lead to willingness to meet with a psychiatrist and try medication or to accept the support of case management. Sometimes it is as basic as feeling safe and comfortable enough to try sleeping on a bed rather than the floor or to put down your belongings long enough to take a shower. It is not always easy work—staff at Respite has challenging days—but success stories are powerful motivators for us. Those individuals who have made it off the streets, sometimes even into their own apartments, make it all worthwhile. Often they stop in to say, "Hi, remember me? Here's where I am now" and it always brings smiles to our faces because we do remember them and we know how far they have come.

Turning Point Respite at Garden Gate is located at 609 5th Street in Modesto. If you would like more information about the program, please give us a call at (209) 341-0718.

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FEBRUARY 2010 MHSA PLANNING UPDATE

By Karen Hurley, MFT, MHSA Planning Coordinator

Watch for the following planning documents during 30-day public review and comment between January and March 2010.

January 22 – February 20, 2010: FY 2009/10 Prudent Reserve Funding Request

This document was available for 30-day review and comment from January 22 – February 20, 2010. With approval of this request, BHRS will dedicate \$500,000 of Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) funds from FY 2007/08 to a Prudent Reserve account. Prudent Reserve in MHSA is like a savings account and protects funds from reversion back to the State. Stanislaus County's PEI Plan was approved on May 28, 2009, and is in early implementation phase. All available FY 2007/08 PEI funds will not be spent prior to June 30, 2010. This funding request was submitted to the California Department of Mental Health on February 22, 2010.

February 17 – March 18, 2010 : Technological Needs Project Proposal

For the first time, public funding is allocated specifically for modernization of information systems and consumer/family member empowerment to access computing resources in the California public mental health service system. Technological Needs projects must align with and support the transformational concepts inherent in the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). This document is the first Project Proposal to be submitted that will begin to access \$5.7 million for Stanislaus County. Beginning February 17, 2010 the Project Proposal is available for 30-day review and comment. An informational meeting will be conducted on March 2, 2010, 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., at Behavioral Health & Recovery Services, 800 Scenic Drive, Redwood Room, Modesto, CA.

February 24 – March 25, 2010: FY 2010/11 Annual Update

In order to receive funding for already-approved programs (CSS and PEI), the FY 2010/11 Annual Update must be submitted to the California Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the MHSA Oversight and Accountability Commission. The Annual Update is consistent with the guidelines given by DMH in Information Notice 10-01.

The 30-day public review and comment period is February 24 – March 25, 2010. An informational meeting will be conducted on March 16, 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., at Behavioral Health & Recovery Services, 800 Scenic Drive, Main Conference Room, Modesto, CA. A public hearing will be conducted by the Mental Health Board on March 25, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

All planning documents may be downloaded from www.stanislausmhsa.com or by calling Teresa at (209) 525-6247 to request a paper copy to be picked up or mailed to you. All community and agency stakeholders are invited to participate in public reviews, informational meetings and public hearings. All public comments shall be considered and substantial comments included as appropriate to achieving approvals. A comment form is provided at the end of each document that may be faxed to (209) 525-6291 or mailed to Behavioral Health & Recovery Services, 800 Scenic Drive, Modesto, California, 95350. Comments may also be submitted to khurley@stancounty.com. Please put the name of the document in the subject line.

FSP to FSP Program Transfers

By Brenda Kachel, DMS/Performance Measurement

When an MHSA Full Service Partnership (FSP) program transfers a client to another FSP program, both the transferring and receiving programs have steps to follow to successfully accomplish the transfer.

The transferring program begins the transfer by entering a Key Event Tracking (KET) form in the Data Collection and Reporting (DCR) system. Under the Administrative section, indicate the client will be transferred to the new (receiving) FSP program and enter the actual date of the new episode opening. Also enter the name of the Partnership Service Coordinator (PSC) or staff member identified as the new point person for the client. If the point person is unknown, enter the name of the coordinator or key staff member responsible for insuring clients are assigned a point person. The transferring program will be able to view the client on their Active Client List in the DCR system until the receiving program completes the transfer process.

The receiving program selects Manage Active Clients in the DCR system and chooses the name of the transferring client. (If the client is not in DCR, the transferring program may not have completed a KET to begin the transfer, as described above, or may have entered the wrong FSP program the client is being transferred to. Contact the transferring program to request entry of the KET data.) Once the transferring client has been found in DCR, select the transfer KET and verify that the information in the Administrative section is correct (program name, PSC/staff name, and date of change). Make any necessary changes on the KET. When all information is correct, click "Submit." A message will appear stating you are making a change to the assessment. Click "OK/Yes". The client has now been successfully transferred to the receiving program and the client record is only viewable in that program's Active Client List.

Please note: The above-described transfer procedure does not apply to Telecare FSP clients transferring between Telecare FSPs (Reporting Units 53011, 12 and 15) because all Telecare FSP clients are considered part of the same FSP program (FSP-01) for DCR recordkeeping purposes.



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 (unless otherwise notified).



If you have questions or suggestions regarding MHSA, please forward them by I.D. mail or e-mail to: Carol Jo Hargreaves, BHRS / Administration, e-mail: chargrea@stancounty.com; or Karen Hurley, BHRS / Administration, e-mail: khurley@stancounty.com