



MHSA “STATE-ADMINISTERED” PROJECTS

The MHSOAC, California Department of Mental Health (DMH), and the California Mental Health Directors Association (CMHDA) agreed earlier this year to set aside \$245 million for “several state-administered projects [that] will complement and support county PEI Projects”. The six projects below are described in detail in the PEI guidelines (http://www.dmh.cahwnet.gov/Prop_63/MHSA/Prevention_and_Early_Intervention/Plan_Guidelines.asp).

1. 1. Suicide Prevention: A fund of \$14 million annually for four years is established for activities such as training of trainers for PEI staff and providers, consultation to counties and PEI providers on successful approaches and public education efforts.
2. 2. Stigma and Discrimination Reduction: A fund of \$20 million annually for four years is established for priority activities identified through OAC’s Policy Work Group, public hearings and stakeholder processes.
3. 3. Ethnically and Culturally Specific Programs and Interventions: A fund of \$15 million annually for four years is established to support special projects for reducing ethnic and cultural disparities based on the results of targeted stakeholder processes.
4. 4. Training, Technical Assistance and Capacity Building: A fund of \$12 million annually for four years is established to support specific PEI programs. The emphasis is to increase capacity among PEI providers (outside the mental health system) to implement successful programs and interventions.
5. 5. Statewide Evaluation: A fund of up to five to eight percent of the total county PEI planning estimates is established for statewide PEI evaluation. To the extent possible, the statewide evaluation may be paid for by the MHSA Administrative Budget.
6. 6. Student Mental Health Initiative: A portion of the funding for state-administered projects has been proposed for a state-administered Student Mental Health Initiative (\$60 million total over four years). This funding will support college campuses and K-12 public schools and agencies.

Originally, stakeholder groups thought that single organizations and groups of organizations/agencies in collaborative networks would be able to apply for these funds directly to DMH and OAC. But after the draft timeline for the state-administered projects was released at the November MHSOAC meeting, we learned the following: (http://www.dmh.cahwnet.gov/MHSOAC/docs/StateAdministeredProjects_Timeline_No_v1.pdf)

- The draft application process for the five (5) state-administered projects that family-strengthening organizations might consider, outlines a 2-year process that was not well-received at the last MHSOAC meeting in November;
- Even though the money was set aside for these projects, the counties where the proposed programs will be implemented still have to approve those programs when they are submitted;
- The state-administered term has now been changed to statewide to account for this misunderstanding earlier in the process;
- Most of the commissioners felt that a more streamlined process carried out directly through the counties, through a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) process could take the place of this proposed draft of the statewide application process (CMHDA agreed, but more discussion and input will take place at the next and future MHSOAC meetings).

CFRA will continue to keep you informed on this topic, as we believe that these statewide initiatives could be instrumental for the family-strengthening field to be effective in assisting with the transformation of the mental health service delivery system.