

**MENTAL HEALTH
SERVICES ACT UPDATE**

(www.suttercounty.org)

MAY 2005

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WHAT IS THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT?

Prop. 63, *The Mental Health Services Act*, funded by a new tax on high income individuals, is designed to expand and transform California's county mental health service systems. It stipulates that the State Department of Mental Health (SDMH) will contract with County Mental Health Departments to develop and manage the implementation of Prop. 63's provisions. However, it is important to note that in the first year of implementation, no services will be funded. The legislation requires an intensive planning process by each county to develop and submit 3 year plan proposals for executing the purpose and intent of the Act. The State Department of Mental Health intends to assure that county mental health departments expend funds made available through the act towards a state-of-the-art, culturally competent system that promotes recovery/wellness through independence, hope, personal empowerment and resiliency for adults and seniors with severe mental illness and for children with serious emotional disorders and their families.

Purpose and Intent of Prop. 63

To make serious mental illness among seniors, adults and children a priority and promote early intervention and prevention services and medical and supportive care to prevent mental illnesses from becoming severe and disabling.

To reduce the long term adverse impact on individuals, families and state and local budgets resulting from untreated serious mental illness.

To expand successful, innovative programs that have demonstrated their effectiveness for adults, children and seniors, including culturally and linguistically competent approaches to the under served and others most severely at risk of serious mental illness.

To provide state and local funding for ser-

vices that cannot be paid for with other funds.

To ensure that all funds are expended in the most cost-effective manner and in accordance with recommended best practices subject to local and state oversight.

The legislation requires an approved 3-year plan and for each of three years allocates:

10% to education and training programs

10% to capital facilities and technological needs

20% to Prevention and Early Intervention programs to prevent mental illness from becoming severe and disabling

5% for Innovative Programs that increase access to services and to under served groups, that promote interagency collaboration, and that increase quality and outcomes of services

The remaining funds are allocated locally to:

- Services for children with severe mental illnesses
- Services to adults and seniors with severe mental illnesses
- A prudent reserve to help maintain new programming in years when certain revenues decline below the average of previous year.

After this 3-year period funding will no longer be prescribed by category, and may be used for:

- Services to children, adults or older adults
- Technological needs and capital facilities
- Human resource needs
- A prudent reserve

The stated purpose of the Mental Health Services Act is to "expand mental health services" in California.

SUTTER-YUBA MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BEGINS PLANNING FOR THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (MHSA)

Sutter-Yuba Mental Health Services is moving forward with the planning processes required by the MHSA.

The first of several plans has been written and submitted to the State Department of Mental Health for approval for funding to assist with the planning process for the Community Services and Support Plan that is to be submitted to the State Department of Mental Health in the fall of this year. This plan can be viewed from the Sutter County Mental Health Services web page (www.suttercounty.org) and using the Mental Health Service Act link.

To begin the Community Services and Support Plan, committees are being formed to address the issues related to service delivery for the specific age groups identified by the State:

- Children
- Transitional Age Youth
- Adult
- Older Adult

These Committees will be providing education on the MHSA to consumers, families, local service agencies, interest groups and the community in an effort to invite broad-based involvement in this process. Committees will be looking at the current Service Delivery System and be learning the needs and interests of the consumers, family members, providers, system partners and the community.

Sutter-Yuba Mental Health Services wants to involve people with mental illness and family caregivers in the planning process. To find out more or to participate, please contact Sue Shaffer, Project Coordinator, at 822-7200 or Donna Thompson, Staff Analyst, at 822-7200.



Sutter Buttes

“Nothing about us, without us.”

CA Network of Clients



MEET YOUR PARTNERS



OPTIONS FOR CHANGE

Options for Change (OFC) Substance Abuse Treatment Services are a Bi-County Services of Sutter-Yuba Mental Health Services.

Options for Change provides a client-centered, outcome-oriented, integrated, cost effective delivery of service. Programs offered by OFC include Drug Diversion, Early Intervention, Outpatient and Intensive Outpatient Programs, Co-Dependency Support Group and Drug Court Services for both Sutter and Yuba Counties. Services are provided after a full assessment or screening of each individual.

There are two main ways that individuals may access ser-

vices available from Options for Change.

- Individuals may self-refer or be referred by another agency.
⇒ Call our office at (530) 822-7200
- Individuals are referred from the Criminal Justice System.

Options for Change is located at:

Sutter-Yuba Mental Health Services
1965 Live Oak Blvd.
Yuba City, CA 95991
(530) 822-7200
Hours: Monday—Friday 8:00AM—5:00PM



To learn more about the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) or to participate in workgroups or focus groups contact:

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