

DMH is pleased to share information on the Enhanced Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Stakeholders Process

For the past two years, the Department of Mental Health (DMH) has greatly benefited from the input, feedback and comments offered through the MHSA Stakeholder Process. We thank all of you who have participated at one of the General Stakeholder Meetings or joined us on one of the many Statewide Conference Calls. Your ideas, thoughts and contributions have made a difference!

Although we are quite pleased with the process and outcomes of the MHSA Stakeholder Process, we are interested in making improvements to its structure and scheduling in an effort to further enhance the outreach to and engagement among the diverse stakeholder communities throughout the State. As a result, we have made a number of adjustments to the MHSA Stakeholder process, which are described below. We hope that you find that these changes are supportive to your continued participation. The Stakeholder Process has and will continue to play a critical role in the implementation of MHSA. With plans to launch additional MHSA components this year, there is still a lot for us to do and we are looking forward to your involvement.

The following is a brief description of the enhanced MHSA Stakeholder process:

- **MHSA General Stakeholders Meetings** – The DMH team who are working on the MHSA do plan on traveling to three different locations in the state twice a year to provide stakeholders with an update on the implementation of all of the MHSA components. With the multiple fronts of the MHSA, it is important to periodically take a comprehensive look at all of the efforts underway. These meetings will provide a venue for the DMH team to meet and discuss the challenges and successes of local efforts as well as to provide an update on state level activities and timelines. These meetings will be held in locations in Northern, Southern and Central California. The first General Stakeholder Meetings will be held in the fall of this year.
- **Statewide Conference Calls** – These conference calls are intended to present and discuss specific technical issues on the various MHSA components. It is anticipated that during these calls specific issues (e.g., guidelines, principles, recommendations) will be addressed by state staff with ample time set aside to hear the comments, questions and feedback offered by the callers on the line. These calls will be scheduled as needed and will typically be 1 to 2 hours in length, depending on the issues and materials under review. The conference calls can accompany a large number of stakeholders and stakeholders can join these calls via a toll-free number. Information on the calls will be posted on the MHSA Website. Handouts and other materials will also be posted on the MHSA Website for stakeholders to download and review, typically a week in advance of each call.

- **MHSA Workshops** – With the breadth of the MHSA, it was suggested that a new format be added to the MHSA Stakeholder Process to expand learning opportunities for more fully exploring and understanding new topic areas. The MHSA Workshops will be designed to introduce and begin the dialogue among stakeholders on a variety of topics relevant to the MHSA. Similar to the Statewide Conference Calls, the MHSA Workshops will be scheduled as needed, but will most likely be full-day events with multiple breakout sessions often featuring expert speakers and panelists from a variety of different fields/disciplines. These workshops will typically be offered in Northern and Southern California. The first series of MHSA Workshops are now being planned for April 2007 and will focus on topics pertinent to the Prevention and Early Intervention component. The details of the first workshop are forthcoming, so check the MHSA Website for more information during the coming weeks.

The dates, times and locations for all of the MHSA Stakeholder events are posted to the MHSA Website. Please visit the MHSA Stakeholders Meetings page: <http://www.dmh.ca.gov/mhsa/meetings.asp>. If you haven't already done so, we would like to suggest that you subscribe to our MHSA email distribution list to receive regular updates. To subscribe please visit: <http://www.dmh.ca.gov/mhsa/subscribe/default.asp>. And, if you have any questions or would like to provide comments about the Stakeholder Process or any other aspect of the MHSA, please send us a note at mhsa@dmh.ca.gov.

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to seeing you soon as we continue our collaborative efforts to transform the mental health system of California.