

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) states that the Department of Mental Health (DMH) shall establish requirements for the content of the three-year county Integrated Plans that incorporate all of the components of the Act. With this first three-year Integrated Plan we have the opportunity and responsibility to integrate the components of the MHSA not only with each other, but also with the entire public mental health system. As each of the components of the plan was developed, communities began the process of change and transformation of their public mental health systems. The Integrated Plan will reflect each county's strategies for how they intend to further this vision of a transformed system, where the core elements of integration and collaboration, cultural competence and a client and family driven wellness oriented system will be embedded in everything we do.

The specific guidelines for the Integrated Plan will be developed with our community partners and stakeholders over the next nine months. As a first step we have developed this framework with stakeholder input, which describes the structure for the Integrated Plan and the purpose of each of the sections within this structure. The framework will be the foundation for the Integrated Plan guidelines that the state will issue and that counties must follow. Together with our stakeholders, we will work from this framework to build on prior efforts and develop specific content for each of the sections. As we develop these guidelines we will strive for simplicity and flexibility, while maintaining accountability for performance and outcomes.

Stephen M. Mayberg
Director