



## County of Orange

Health Care Agency Behavioral Health Services

# Mental Health Services Act FY 2012/13 Update

April 23, 2012

## OVERVIEW AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Planning Process for the FY 2012/13 Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Update builds on the previous MHSA planning processes. Orange County is neither adding new programs nor eliminating programs previously approved. Thus, the current array of services, which was created based on extensive planning processes, will remain in the MHSA Plan for 2012/13. These processes included hundreds of focus groups, community planning meetings, approval by the Orange County MHSA Steering Committee and public hearings held by the Orange County Mental Health Board.

At the MHSA Steering Committee meeting held in November 2011, the Steering Committee adopted a new structure to enhance the planning process and provide additional opportunities for MHSA Steering Committee member and public input. The Steering Committee developed Subcommittees that are organized by MHSA component and by each of the age groups within Community Services and Supports (CSS). The role of each Subcommittee is to make recommendations on services and level of funding for MHSA programs.

The four Subcommittees are:

- CSS Children and Transitional Aged Youth (TAY)
- CSS Adults and Older Adults
- Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI)
- Workforce Education and Training (WET) and Innovation (INN)

Members of the MHSA Steering Committee and Alternates may join up to two Subcommittees of their choice. Members of the public who would like to become Subcommittee members may apply to become members of one or two Subcommittees. This new structure was implemented in January 2012 and the Subcommittees met for the first time on February 6, 2012.

Although the Subcommittees recommended continuing the same level of funding for most programs, the Community Services and Supports Adult and Older Adult CSS Subcommittee proposed to substantially increase the funding for the Centralized Assessment Teams/Psychiatric Evaluation Response Teams (CAT/PERT). Funding for this program increased from approximately \$1.6 million in FY11/12 to \$2.4 million in FY 12/13.

These programs provide assessments of individuals who may be in crisis and link these individuals to appropriate services. Such programs have proved effective in diverting seriously mentally ill persons from jail and hospitalization. The Subcommittee proposed to approximately double the size of the current program through the use of MHSA contingency funds. Contingency funds are available to help counties address any unexpected changes in need and/or program costs.

The Plan was posted by the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors for Public Comment for 30 days, April 23 through May 22. The draft Plan Update was also posted on the Orange County MHSA website and the Network of Care website. In addition, copies were made available at Orange County libraries.

With the exception of the Innovation Projects, implementation of most programs has generally proceeded as expected. The Innovations Plan was the last to be submitted to and approved by the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the Oversight and Accountability Commission (OAC). Due to the timing, implementation of these programs was delayed by a variety of factors, including hiring freezes, budget uncertainty, and contracting issues. Currently, five of the ten Projects have been implemented and the remaining five are expected to be operational by fall of 2012.

Implementation of PEI Programs has continued. PEI has focused on working in the community to increase access to its programs. All of the PEI programs have outreach components for engaging the underserved and unserved populations. Major community issues have been prioritized in the PEI Plan. Orange County has implemented preventive mental health programs that target both adults and families that are experiencing homelessness, living in transitional housing, and/or at risk of homelessness. Prevention programs have been implemented specifically for families with youth in the juvenile justice system and for families with children of substance abusing and/or mentally ill parents. Collaborating with the Orange County courts and a community college, preventive services for veterans are now provided. All of these programs offer community education for reducing and eliminating mental health stigma and discrimination.

Another focus of both PEI and Innovation has been on data collection and outcome measures. A standardized data collection and reporting system is being developed. Working with a consultant (Resource Development Associates), logic models, evaluation plans, data collection tools, and standardized procedures for data analysis have been created.

All Workforce Education and Training (WET) programs have been implemented. Orange County has an approved Capital Facilities and Technological Component Plan. Progress continues in the development of an electronic health records system. The opening day ceremonies for the three-building campus, located in Orange that was built with MHSA Capital Facilities funding occurred on April 19, 2012. The project will house three programs: the Wellness Center, Adult Crisis Residential Services and a Workforce Education and Training Center.