

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)

Progress Report

**FY 2007/08
and**

FY 2008/Year-To-Date (November 2008)



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Progress in Planning for and Implementing MHSA Components

➤ Community Services and Supports (CSS)

CSS includes funding for three different types of activities:

- Full Service Partnership Funds – funds to provide “whatever it takes” for initial populations
- General System Development Funds – funds to improve programs, services and supports for the identified initial full service populations and for other clients
- Outreach and Engagement Funding – activities to reach and engage those populations that are currently receiving little or no service

Age Groups of Clients Served FY 2005/06 – Present 1,411

- Children 238
- Transitional Age Youth 447
- Adults 593
- Older Adults 133

In FY 07/08, Orange County was allocated \$36,302,000 in CSS funding. The State later released \$1,339,300 in One Time Funding as well as \$9,030,400 in Growth Funds.

In FY 08/09, Orange County was allocated \$36,302,000 in CSS funding. For 08/09 there are two CSS “growth” augmentations. The first is for \$8,135,900. A community planning process was implemented to determine the best use of that money. The Department of Mental Health (DMH) later announced that a second “growth” augmentation would be available to counties. The second CSS augmentation for Orange County is \$7,774,800. Thus, in 2008/09 Orange County is eligible to receive a total of \$52,212,700 for CSS programs.

CSS FY 2008/09 Growth Funding: Expected Timeline

Internal Review..... October – November, 2008
Public Comment Period November 6 – December 8, 2008
Board of Supervisors Approval December 16, 2008

CSS Services Provided

Orange County is currently providing many needed MHSA-funded Community Services and Supports. These include the following:

- Full Service Partnership programs for Children and Youth, Transitional Age Youth, Adults, and Older Adults.
- General Systems Development programs:
 - Children’s Crisis Residential
 - Children’s In-Home Crisis Program
 - Children’s Mentoring Program
 - Transitional Age Youth Crisis Residential
 - Transitional Age Youth Mentoring Program

- Adult Centralized Assessment Team and Psychiatric Evaluation Response Team
- Adult Supported Employment
- Program of Assertive Community Treatment
- Older Adult Mental Health Recovery Services
- Education and Training
- Housing
- Outreach and Engagement Services for Children, Transitional Age Youth, Adults, and Older Adults

Services currently out for bid or Solicitation of Interest:

- Wellness/Peer Support Center
- Adult Crisis Residential

Proposed new services in CSS FY 2008/09 CSS Growth Funding Plan:

- Adult Recovery Center Program
- Adult Mentoring Program
- Older Adult Peer Mentoring Program

These programs have not yet been submitted to or approved by the Department of Mental Health (DMH).

Full Service Partnerships provide the most intensive level of services available. Services include linkage to, or provision of, all needed services and benefits as defined by the client and family in consultation with the Personal Services Coordinator, including help with school, employment, physical health, co-occurring disorders, and housing. During FY 2007/08 a total of 1,201 individuals were enrolled in Full Service Partnerships in Orange County (Figure 1).

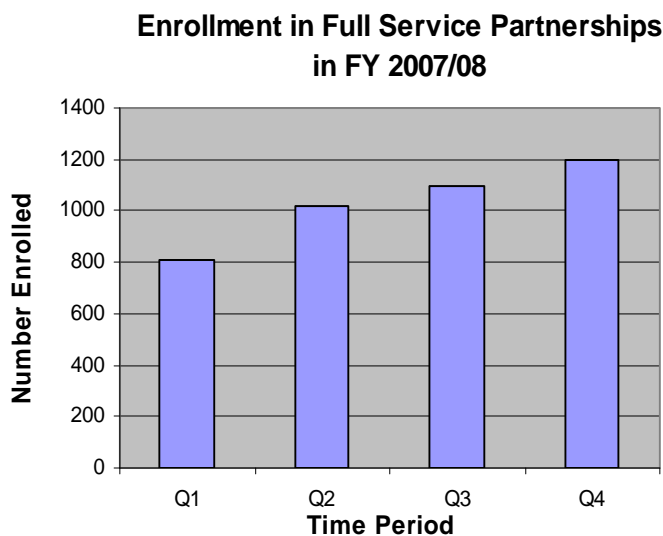


Figure 1. Enrollment in Full Service Partnerships in FY 2007/08

➤ **Workforce Education and Training (WET)**

The WET Plan was approved on August 14, 2008. The total amount of funding available at that time was \$7,615,403. An additional \$651,797 had already been approved for WET Community Planning and Early Implementation. Since then, additional WET funding has become available. Orange County will request an \$8,948,110

augmentation to its current plan. Once the augmentation request is approved by DMH the total amount of WET funds will be \$17,215,300.

Workforce Education and Training Three Year Plan: Timeline

- Public Comment Period.....April 2 – May 2, 2008
- Mental Health Board Public Hearing..... May 8, 2008
- Board of Supervisors Approval May 20, 2008
- Approved by the State August 14, 2008

Workforce Education and Training: Augmentation

Board of Supervisors, Grant Authorization: Approved on October 28, 2008

The original Plan includes 19 programs that fall into five categories.

1. Workforce Staffing Support
 - o Workforce Education and Training Coordination
 - o Consumer Employment Support Specialist Services
 - o Liaison to Regional Workforce and Education Partnership

2. Training and Technical Assistance
 - o Staff Training on Evidence-Based Practices
 - o Training provided by Consumers/Family Members for Staff, Consumers/Family Members, and the Community
 - o Cultural Competence Training for Staff and the Community
 - o Training for Foster Parents and Others Working with Foster Children and Youth
 - o Mental Health Training for Law Enforcement

3. Mental Health Career Pathways
 - o Training Consumers and Family Members for Employment in the Mental Health Field
 - o High School Academy
 - o Community College and Undergraduate Certificate Programs
 - o Recovery Education Institute

4. Residencies and Internships
 - o Graduate Student Intern Supervision
 - o Supervision for High School Interns, AA Interns, and Bachelor’s Level Interns
 - o AA/BA/MA Program Recruiter
 - o Psychiatry Residencies and Fellowships

5. Financial Incentives
 - o Financial Incentives to Increase Workforce Diversity: AA and BA Stipends and 20/20 Program
 - o Financial Incentives to Increase Workforce Diversity: Graduate Student Stipends

- Financial Incentives to Increase Workforce Diversity: 20/20 Programs for Public Mental Health Employees to Attend Graduate School

➤ **Capital Facilities and Technological Needs**

The Capital Facilities Component Proposal was approved by DMH on August 15, 2008. The Component Proposal includes Capital Facilities funding for three new facilities to be constructed at 401 S. Tustin St., Orange. The three facilities will house programs that have been previously approved by DMH. These programs are a Wellness/Peer Support Center, an Adult Crisis Residential Program, and an Education and Training Program.

The overall goal for use of the Technological Needs funding is to create an integrated information systems infrastructure through the implementation of an Electronic Health Record (EHR). Implementation of an EHR will provide secure, real-time, point of service information to service providers. In addition to developing an EHR, other Information Technology projects may be considered. Orange County may decide to use some of the Technology funding to upgrade servers and to install kiosks for use by consumers.

The Orange County Health Care Agency was first notified that it would receive \$28,308,300 in MHSA Capital Facilities and Technological Needs funding. The MHSA Steering Committee reached consensus that 80% will be spent on Capital Facilities and 20% will be used to fund Technological Needs.

The DMH later released Information Notice 08-21, in which Orange County was notified that it is eligible to receive an additional \$8,894,500 for a total of \$37,202,800 in Capital Facilities and Technological Needs funding.

401 S. Tustin St.

401 S. Tustin St. in the City of Orange will be the site for a Crisis Residential, Wellness/Peer Support Center, and an Education and Training Center. Construction will include parking, sidewalks, landscaping, landscaping irrigation, fire lanes, recreation areas, shade shelters, area lighting, building security, signage, and perimeter walls.

Capital Facilities Component Proposal

Public Comment Period..... June 6 – July 6, 2008
 Mental Health Board Public Hearing.... July 10, 2008
 Board of Supervisors Approval..... July 15, 2008
 Approved by the State..... August 15, 2008

Capital Facilities Project Proposal: Tentative Timeline

Public Comment Period..... December 12 – January 12, 2009
 Board of Supervisors..... January 13, 2009

➤ **Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI)**

The PEI planning process began in March 2007 with presentations and information sharing with community stakeholders. It is anticipated that a written plan will be

submitted to DMH by January 2009. In 2007 the State released an initial amount of \$2,029,700 for the PEI community planning process. Any of these funds not spent on the planning process, will go to support PEI services. For the Fiscal Year of 2007/08 \$7,725,500 was allocated to Orange County. For the Fiscal Year of 2008/09 \$19,734,200 was allocated to Orange County bringing the total PEI allocation to \$29,489,400.

Prevention and Early Intervention: Anticipated Timeline

PEI Stakeholder Meetings	March 2007 – June 2008
PEI Sub-Committee Meetings	July 21 and July 30, 2008
PEI Project Workgroups	August – September 2008
Final PEI Sub-Committee Meeting	September 30, 2008
Steering Committee Approval.....	October 6, 2008
Internal Review.....	October – November, 2008
Public Comment Period.....	December 4 – January 3, 2009
Mental Health Board Public Hearing.....	January 8, 2009
Board of Supervisors	January 13, 2009

The PEI planning process included 75 community focus groups and distribution of two surveys (one for community-based organizations and one for community members). To develop recommendations for the allocation of PEI funding eight project specific workgroups were held. An MHSA Steering Committee PEI Sub-Committee assisted in the decision making process and developed recommendations to be presented to the Steering Committee by HCA staff.

Prevention and Early Intervention: State-Administered Projects

Orange County Steering Committee approved assigning \$13,336,800 to the State for PEI State-Administered Projects. These projects include Suicide Prevention, Stigma and Discrimination Reduction, and Student Mental Health Initiative (Information Notice 08-25).

State-Administered Projects: Timeline

Mental Health Board Public Hearing.....	November 13, 2008
Board of Supervisors ASR Approval.....	November 25, 2008

State-Administered Projects: Funding

Assignment to State	\$13,336,800
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➤ **Housing**

In addition to the Housing provided through a County's CSS Plan, DMH decided to establish a special CSS Housing Program. Funding was allocated to Counties; then the

Counties had the option to assign the funds to the California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA). CalHFA administers the Housing programs and is the fiscal agent in charge of holding each County's funds and distributing them upon the approval of project plans. Orange County was allocated a total of \$33,158,300 to be used for MHSA Housing. Of this, \$11,052,800 may be used for operating subsidies, and the remainder must be used for permanent supportive housing. Developers must partner with HCA to submit an application. Several potential local projects are currently under consideration.

MHSA Success Stories

➤ Training Consumers and Family Members for Employment in the Mental Health System

Orange County has implemented a very successful training program that is aimed at assisting clients and family members in securing employment in the public mental health system. The program enables students to become service providers or operators of consumer-run services, so that the public mental health system in Orange County reflects a meaningful inclusion of consumers and family members. The model of training that was developed included three components:

- Classroom training of consumers and family members in basic human services and mental health concepts/knowledge, using a curriculum that emphasizes wellness and recovery principles. This component of the program has been provided through a local community college.
- Fieldwork training (internships) of consumers and family members in jobs using skills related to working within the mental health system.
- Training of current mental health system staff and administrators in philosophy, concepts, and skills necessary to work alongside of and incorporate consumers and family members as full partners in providing mental health services. The goal is to promote an integrated service experience for consumers and family members.

This contracted program has been successfully implemented through a partnership between Pacific Clinics and Santa Ana Community College. Program staffing includes a director, two job coaches, two employment specialists, and two peer mentors. Since the start of the program in Fall 2007, seventy-four students have completed the didactic portion of the course to date while 30 students are currently completing the course. Of the 74 students who completed the didactic portion, 56 students have enrolled in internship programs. Staff and administrators of the internship placement sites have gone through a full-day training and a half-day follow-up training on working with consumers. It is the County's plan to continue this successful program after the one-time CSS funding has been spent. At that time, the MHSA Workforce Education and Training component funding will be used to fund this program.

➤ Network of Care

The Network of Care is a comprehensive, internet-based community resource for persons in recovery, their family members, County staff, and providers. This easy-to-

use website provides an extensive directory to put people in touch with the right services at the click of a mouse. It also offers vital information regarding diagnoses, insurance, and advocacy as well as daily news concerning behavioral health.

In addition to being a one-stop resource center, Network of Care puts users in touch with State legislators, allowing users to monitor legislative bills on a topic of interest. The “Community Calendar” allows users to directly post local events on the calendar in real time. The “Message Board” lets users communicate with their peers both locally and nationally.

Another unique feature of Network of Care is “My Folder”. “My Folder” is a private, secure place to keep an individual’s personal health records, a list of current medications, allergies, emergency contact information, community support services and more. Users can also give others (i.e. close family member) permission to access their personal folder. This “My Folder” feature is useful in case of an emergency, as first responders can access the user’s medical history by contacting the specified designee. In addition, an individual has the ability to print out an Emergency Card with his/her contact information, and have a laminated copy mailed free of charge. The information stored in “My Folder” is completely secure and is only accessible to the owner and those individuals who have been given access.

Two other features are currently in development. First is the “For Veterans” section specifically targeted to the mental health needs of returning veterans, other service personnel, their families and their communities. Second is the “Job Board” which provides a listing of various job opportunities available in the community. These two features are expected to be completed by early 2009.

Visit Network of Care at <http://orange.networkofcare.org>
E-mail: networkofcare@ochca.com

➤ **MHSA Website**

The MHSA website has been enhanced with several new features. A calendar containing the MHSA Office meetings and events has been added. A “What’s New” section on the homepage provides links to new postings and to frequently requested links. A separate web page has been developed for Capital Facilities and provides updates on the 401 S. Tustin Street project. An Art Gallery has been created to allow persons in recovery and family members to display their artwork and writing on the web. “Recovery Connections”, the MHSA newsletter, is also posted on the web for people to view and/or download. The Vietnamese and Spanish sections of the MHSA website are also being reorganized and expanded. In March 2008 the MHSA Office set up a mailbox on both the MHSA and Network of Care websites to provide the community with an additional means of communicating with the MHSA office. Both mail boxes are regularly monitored by MHSA Staff, and all inquiries are promptly addressed by knowledgeable HCA staff. Since the implementation of the two mailboxes the MHSA office has received an increasing number of requests by members of the community seeking mental health services for self, a family member or a friend.

➤ **Recovery Arts Program**

▪ **Multicultural Community Art Fair**

On March 29, 2008 Orange County consumers and family members of all ages and cultural groups participated in a community art fair at the Delhi Community Center in Santa Ana, CA. The fair provided an opportunity to showcase art, crafts, poetry and music, sample international food, and enjoy being part of a creative community. An art and writing contest was also held to select finalists who would be included in the MHSA 2009 Calendar. The event drew a crowd of over one hundred artists and visitors. This event was sponsored by the Multicultural Art Guild, the MHSA Office, the Mental Health Association and the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI – Orange County).

▪ **Art Exhibit and MHSA Open House**

On Wednesday, September 24, 2008 the MHSA Office held an Art Exhibit and Open House. This special occasion honored consumers who participated in the March 2008 Art Fair. The event allowed the public to view the original art and writing of finalists featured in the MHSA 2009 calendar. Painting, sketching, photography, multi-media pieces, ceramics, and glassware were on display, as well as poems and inspirational thoughts by consumers. Mark Refowitz, Director of Behavioral Health Services, conducted the awards ceremony and recognized the artists for their “museum quality work”. This exhibit provided an opportunity to meet the artists and observe the talent and creative vision of artists who are living with mental illness.

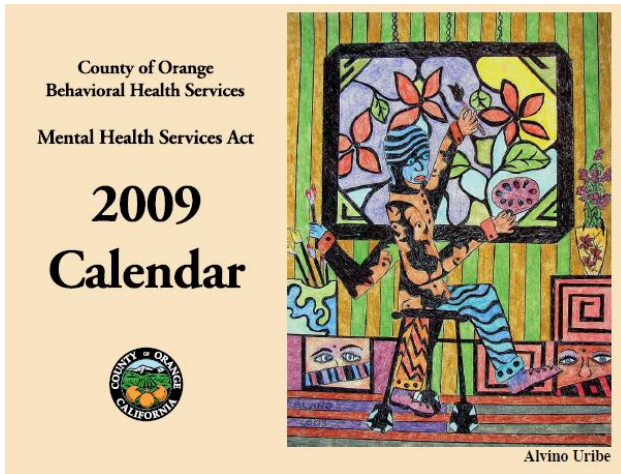


Finalists of the MHSA Office Art Fair posed for a picture at the MHSA Office Art Exhibit and Open House held on September 24, 2008.

▪ **MHSA Art Gallery**

The MHSA office recently launched a web page featuring art and writing created by persons in recovery and their family members. This web page features selected art pieces and writing each month, and those who wish to display their work are encouraged to go to the web page for art gallery guidelines. The MHSA Art Gallery can be accessed via the MHSA Homepage.

- **MHSA 2009 Calendar**



The MHSA office published its first consumer art calendar, featuring finalists from March 29, 2008 art and writing contest. The MHSA office would like to thank each of the artists and writers for sharing their gifts in this very special project.

- **Recovery Connections**



Recovery Connections is a quarterly newsletter published by the MHSA office. The latest issue, "Fall 2008" was released in early October. Recovery Connections is posted on the MHSA website and distributed throughout the County to staff, community partners, and persons in recovery and their family members. It is a venue to share success stories, personal perspectives, writing, art, and other creative projects. The newsletter is also a place to get information on MHSA planning and activities, community affairs and art events. Anyone who would like to submit items for publication can email MHSA at mhsa@ochca.com or call 1-714-667-5620. Recovery Connections is also available on the web at www.ochealthinfo.com/mhsa.

- **Mental Health Board Arts Committee**

The Orange County Mental Health Board has formed an Arts Committee to support and encourage community arts events, classes, and workshops being made available to those in mental health recovery, their family members, and friends. Encouragement will be given for the use of all the Arts including visual (fine arts, crafts, digital arts, photography, film and video), music, dance, and theater within the therapeutic process, for community meetings, and in workforce training for those in recovery. The information on scheduled meetings and events will be posted on the MHSA website calendar.

- **Personal Perspectives**

“Anyone that tries to help me or my family out, is always going to have my respect. I think this program has been very good to me and the staff has never judged me or made me feel like they look down on me.” An adolescent from the Youthful Offender Wraparound Program.

“...thanks to the Mental Health Services Act, we are well cared for. My family life has changed and gets better and better.” - K. N.

“Thankfully I am further along with my personal recovery....and have developed coping skills to allow me to detour from that path toward depression, not only survive...but actually enjoy being alive.” - Kymberli Kercher-Smith

“I feel like I belong now. I’m looking forward to other adventures, and am considering taking a class to learn more about computers”. An older adult from the OASIS (Older Adult Support and Intervention System) Program

“Just a little over a year ago I was homeless and helpless...I found Telecare and Telecare made things happen! The apartment I live in, the clothes I am wearing, my dishes, pots and pans, so many things from Telecare. ...For what they have given me that can’t be put into words, I will remain eternally grateful.” - Paula Wagner