

**Orange County Health Care Agency
Behavioral Health Services**



Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)

Stakeholder Meeting Report

Category/Title: So. Co. Older Adult Focus Group

Date: 8/1/05 Time: 2pm		Coordinator: Mark Odom Contact No.: 714 972-3700 Facilitator: Mark Odom Recorder: Mark Odom	
Meeting Location: South County Seniors 24300 El Toro Road Laguna Woods, CA 92653		Total number of Attendees per meeting: 14	
Breakdown by Gender: <u> 7 </u> Male <u> 7 </u> Female _____ Other _____ Decline to State	Breakdown by role in the MH System: <u> 2 </u> Client/Consumer <u> 3 </u> Family Member <u> 9 </u> Service Provider _____ Other	Breakdown by Primary Language: <u> 14 </u> English _____ Spanish _____ Vietnamese _____ Other _____	Breakdown by Ethnicity _____ African American <u> 1 </u> Asian/Pacific Islander <u> 1 </u> Latino _____ American Indian <u> 12 </u> Caucasian _____ Other
Breakdown by: _____ Total # of Ralph's Vouchers Distributed _____ Total # of OCTA Bus Passes Distributed _____ Total # of consumers transported _____ Total # of family members transported _____ Total # of childcare recipients _____ Other _____ none		Breakdown by: _____ Total # of people requesting a Spanish Translator _____ Total # of people requesting a Vietnamese Translator	

Stakeholder Group Questions:

- What are the problems you face?
- What do you need to make better?
- What are the outcomes you want?
- What kinds of services need to be in place to achieve them?

General Meeting Comments (type):

What are the problems you face?

Lack of access to psychiatrist

Lack of knowledge concerning existing mental health services

Limited coverage for mental health services

Chronic behavioral problems with alcoholic and depressed seniors as well as seniors who have brain impairment and depression – they are frequently excluded from treatment

Stigma

Lack of in-home mental health services

Physicians are slow to refer to mental health specialists

Inappropriate diagnosis of mental health problems

Medication “shopping”/medication seeking behavior by older adults

HIPAA regulations limiting interaction between professionals

What do you need to make better?

Improve access to medications

Improve housing opportunities for older adults with mental illness

Increase number of professionals trained to work with older adults

Family understanding of mental illness in older adults

Coordination between physicians and mental health professionals

Improve language capabilities of geriatric mental health professionals

Increase the number of geriatric psychiatric inpatient beds

What are the outcomes you want?

Better understanding of Older Adult mental illness by family members

Healthier seniors

Increase resources especially in-home mental health services

More access to housing

What kinds of services need to be in place to achieve them?

Long-term case management for mentally ill older adults

24/7 mental health crisis response teams

Drop-in center for mentally ill seniors

Ongoing in-home mental health counseling

Temporary crisis residential setting for mentally ill older adults in crisis

Long-term board and care for mentally ill older adults

Increased education for families and professionals concerning special needs of MI older adults

Sheltered workshop for mentally impaired older adults

Program to improve depression screening by PCPs
