

THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (Prop 63)

During the November 2004 General Election, the Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63) was approved by 53.4% of California voters, and 57.8% of Los Angeles County voters. Proposition 63 will bring significant resources to Los Angeles County to expand and transform mental health service delivery to children, adults, and seniors.

FUNDING

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) will generate new mental health resources through a 1% income surcharge on individuals with incomes over \$1 million. Statewide, MHSA is estimated to generate approximately \$250 million in fiscal year 2004-05, \$700 million in 2005-06, and increasing amounts thereafter. Each county must develop a 3-year plan involving a broad range of stakeholders. Counties must submit the plans to the State Department of Mental Health (SDMH) in order to receive the new MHSA funds. Counties will not receive the funds according to a formula. Instead, allocations will be based on county plan proposals, local levels of unmet need, and the county's capacity to provide the services proposed. MHSA funds must not supplant (replace) current mental health funding in California.

SERVICES

County mental health agencies will receive MHSA funds to provide services across six categories:

- 1) **Community Program Planning** – To identify local priorities for MHSA funds;
- 2) **Community Services & Supports** – To provide "systems of care" services to serve children, adults, and seniors whose needs are not currently met through other funding sources;
- 3) **Prevention & Early Intervention** – To reduce stigma, conduct outreach, and reduce negative mental health outcomes (e.g., suicide, incarceration, homelessness);
- 4) **Innovative Programs** – To improve access to high-quality mental health services;
- 5) **Capital Facilities & Technology**; and
- 6) **Education & Training** – To develop the mental health workforce.

TIMELINE

SDMH has announced the implementation timeline below for the Community Program Planning and Community Services & Supports categories of the MHSA. SDMH has not yet released official timelines for the other four MHSA categories, but plans to release them over the coming months.

Community Program Planning

- Mar. 15, 2005 Deadline by which counties must submit funding requests.
- Apr. 15, 2005 Counties begin to receive funds.

Community Services & Supports

- Feb. 15, 2005 SDMH releases draft requirements and begins collecting feedback.
- Apr. 1, 2005 SDMH issues final requirements.
- Apr. – Oct. 2005 Prior to submission to SDMH, counties release draft plans, circulate them for 30 days, and hold public hearings.
- Oct. – Dec. 2005 Counties begin to receive funds.

STATE OVERSIGHT

MHSA establishes a new Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission to ensure the new funds are utilized properly throughout California. The Commission will be comprised of Governor's appointees across a number of categories, as well as specified State agency and legislative representatives.