



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

**Mental Health Services Act  
FY 2011/12 Update**

March 11, 2011

**DRAFT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

## **OVERVIEW AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In October 2010, Department of Mental Health (DMH) issued Information Notice No. 10-21 entitled "Proposed Guidelines for Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Fiscal Year 2011/12 Annual Update to the Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan." The requirements for the update and the challenges faced by counties due to county and state budget issues were presented at the MHSA Steering Committee meeting on December 6, 2010. At the following MHSA Steering Committee meeting (January 3, 2011), the Committee reviewed the Update requirements and reached a consensus decision that Orange County would keep all Community Services and Supports (CSS) programs at their current funding level and request an increase in funding of 25% for all Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) programs. The MHSA Steering Committee also decided that all FY 11/12 Innovation funding be spent on already approved projects rather than on new projects. Start-up on Innovation Projects has been delayed by hiring freezes and county budget issues. The FY 11/12 Innovation funds will likely be needed to supplement existing funding for already approved Innovation programs since the timeline for reversion of prior-year Innovation funding is fast approaching.

The planning process for the FY 2010/11 Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Update builds on the MHSA planning processes for previous plans. In addition to the comprehensive prior planning processes, at both the December 2010 and January 2011 MHSA Steering Committee meetings, FY 2011/12 planning activities were conducted. During these meetings, there were also discussions of major cuts in behavioral health resources; the need to plan for levels of service that are sustainable in an era of declining resources; uncertainty about state budget decisions; and the constraints of balancing the local and state budgets. Decisions about allocations of MHSA funding were made in the context of other financial situations and events that impact service provision. The Committee acknowledged the need to maximize the benefit of MHSA funding in supporting the public mental health system.

The proposed Plan was approved by the MHSA Steering Committee in a meeting on January 3, 2011. Based on the direction of the Steering Committee staff then wrote a draft Plan, and posted it for a 30-day Public Comment Period commencing March 11, 2011. Finally, the Mental Health Board held a Public Hearing on the Plan on April 14, 2011.

The Plan supports the array of previously approved programs and services. Although Orange County will receive a decrease in both the CSS and PEI allocations in FY 11/12, the decision was made to keep the CSS funding level constant by using other MHSA

funding available to sustain the existing programs. With regard to PEI, Orange County has unrequested funding available for that component; thus, the Steering Committee approved a 25% increase above the amount of funding that was approved for PEI in FY 10/11.

In addition, included in the FY 11/12 MHSU Update is Orange County's request for \$493,300 in FY 11/12 PEI Statewide Projects Training and Technical Assistance funding. This additional training and technical assistance funding will be used for educational presentations, development and dissemination of training materials, development of on-line and web-based resources, and the development of cross-system networks among various partners implementing the Prevention and Early Intervention programs.

Implementation of current CSS and PEI programs has generally proceeded as expected; however, for some programs, implementation was delayed due to a variety of factors, e.g. the difficulty in finding a site for the Adult Crisis residential program, ongoing budget uncertainty at the state and local levels, a lengthy county hiring freeze, and the community's concern about implementing programs that might not be sustainable.

All approved Workforce Education and Training (WET) programs have been implemented. Orange County has an approved Capital Facilities and Technological Component plan and the County is moving forward with the construction of a three-building campus at 401 S. Tustin Street in Orange. Progress is also being made in the development of infrastructure needed to create an Electronic Health Record System. Due to the need for additional funding to meet Electronic Health Record requirements by 2014, the Steering Committee reached consensus on a proposal to change the percentage split in funding between Capital Facilities and Technological Needs. The new percentages are 65% for Technological Needs and 35% for Capital Facilities. A new Technological Needs project is currently being developed and will be submitted to DMH this spring.