

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Progress Report FY 2008-2009
Department of Developmental Services (DDS)
(July 1, 2008-December 12/31/08)

Program Information

During the first reporting, DDS accomplished the following activities:

- A full-time Consulting Psychologist and Community Program Specialist (CPS) III were hired; and
- One half-time Mental Health Consultant is funded. The consultant staffs the Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities Collaborative as well as provides technical assistance to regional centers and community mental health agencies when requested.

Accomplishments of this reporting period include the following:

- A Request for Application (RFA) was developed for regional centers to carry out mental health services on a local level. This application allows regional centers to apply for funding for projects concerning implementation of MHSA. Project areas addressed include training service providers, consumers, families, and clinicians on the needs of consumers with a mental health diagnosis.
- In September 2008, DDS hosted a Health and Wellness Forum. This three day seminar presented topics including improving service delivery systems for developmental disabilities, utilizing multi-agency teams to reduce psychiatric hospitalizations, and using risk analysis and data analyses in risk management.
- DDS, in partnership with the University of California San Francisco School of Medicine, developed the upcoming conference on Developmental Disabilities: Update for Health Professionals. The conference is scheduled for March 2009. Topics will include early childhood mental health, cross-cultural mental health treatment, and family issues across the life span for individuals with a dual diagnosis. More information can be found at www.cme.ucsf.edu.
- The RFA will be sent to the various regional centers in late winter. It incorporates a requirement of collaboration and coordination between the regional center and its local mental health agency.

Fiscal Information

Half-Time Consultant: \$65,000 annually.

Consulting Psychologist: \$162,800 annually (including benefits and operating expenses).

CPS III: \$105,000 annually (including benefits and operating expenses).

DDS reclassified the second Consulting Psychologist position to a CPS II position and is in the process of hiring for this position.

Funding for training for clinicians, direct service providers, and families/consumers are included in the request for application going out to the regional centers. Funding for regional planning events is also included in the RFA. Funds for these activities will be encumbered by June 30, 2009.

Electronic Attachments

RFA

Health and Wellness Forum brochure

Developmental Disabilities: Update for Health Professionals brochure