



San Mateo County Health System Behavioral Health and Recovery Services



MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (MHSA) – Proposition 63

Background

Proposition 63, now known as the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), was approved by California voters in November 2004 and provided the first opportunity in many years for a dedicated source of funding for mental health services by imposing a 1% tax on personal income in excess of \$1 million.

MHSA emphasizes transformation of the mental health system while improving the quality of life for individuals living with mental illness by providing funding for effective treatment, prevention and early intervention, outreach support services and family involvement, and programs to increase access and reduce inequities for unserved, underserved and inappropriately served populations.

Principles and Funding Boundaries

MHSA core values are expressed in five guiding principles for planning and implementation:

- ◆ Community collaboration
- ◆ Cultural competence
- ◆ Consumer and family driven services
- ◆ Focus on wellness, recovery, resiliency
- ◆ Integrated service experience for clients and family members

Fundable activities are grouped into “Components” each one with its own set of guidelines and rules:

Community Services and Supports (CSS)	Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI)	Innovative Programs (INN)	Workforce Education and Training (WET)	Capital Facilities and Information Technology (CF/IT)	Housing
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MHSA also provides funding for Community Program Planning (CPP) activities, which include extensive stakeholder processes. MHSA funding is allocated as follows across the above mentioned components:

- ◆ 75-80% of the county’s annual MHSA funds to CSS; at least 51% of CSS funds must be spent on the most acute clients through Full Service Partnerships
- ◆ 15-20% of the county’s annual MHSA funds to PEI; funds cannot be spent on people who are already known to have a mental illness, with one exception: early onset of psychotic disorders
- ◆ 5% of the county’s annual PEI and CSS funds to INN
- ◆ One-time funds were allocated to WET, CF/TN, and Housing

San Mateo County Approach

In San Mateo County, MHSA dollars are virtually everywhere in our Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) system, which means they are highly leveraged. MHSA-funded activities further BHRS’ nine strategic initiatives to advance Prevention and Early Intervention; build Organizational Capacity; empower Consumers and Family Members; Disaster Preparedness; enhance Systems and Supports; foster Total Wellness; promote Diversity and Equity; cultivate Learning and Improvement; and be Welcoming and Engaging to those who seek our services and work with us.

