

SAN MATEO COUNTY
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION

DATE: September 9, 1999

MENTAL HEALTH POLICY NO.: MH 99-09

SUBJECT: Private Provider Contracts - Language Capabilities

AUTHORITY: Department of Mental Health; Mental Health Plan

SUPERSEDES: New Policy

BACKGROUND

The Mental Health Plan (MHP) is mandated to make all reasonable efforts to provide therapists who are fluent in the threshold languages of consumers in the county. Spanish is the only language in San Mateo County that meets DMH threshold language requirements (3,000 beneficiaries or 5% of the Medi-Cal beneficiary population).

Wherever possible, the MHP seeks to provide services in the language of choice of all consumers.

POLICY

The MHP will expand eligibility for contracting within the private provider network, in order to increase its capacity to serve consumers whose primary language is other than English. The MHP currently contracts with organizational group (practice) providers, and with psychiatrists and psychologists.

- The MHP may enter into contracts with qualified Licensed Clinical Social Workers who have demonstrable fluency in Spanish, Tagalog, Southeast Asian languages and dialects, and /or Russian. Additional language skills will be considered based on the needs of the beneficiary population.

Approved: _____

Beverly Abbott, Director
Mental Health Services Division