

Overview

San Joaquin County is located in California's Central Valley, east of the San Francisco Bay area and includes the cities of Stockton, Lodi, Manteca, Escalon, Ripon, Lathrop, Lockeford, French Camp, and Tracy, in addition to numerous other small cities and unincorporated areas, such as the Delta Islands. As of 2004, the county's population was nearly 643,100, with a racial mix of 44% Caucasian, 34% Hispanic, 14% Asian, 7% African American, and 1% Native American. San Joaquin County is the 15th largest county in California. Stockton, the county seat, is the 12th largest city in California and in the top five in predicted growth.

Per capita income for the county is \$17,365 and 17.7% of the population and 13.5% of families are below the poverty line. Out of the total population, 23.7% of those under the age of 18 and 10% of those 65 and older are living below the poverty line.

The County covers 1,400 square miles and is in the heart of California's richest farmland. The Port of Stockton is the second busiest inland port on the U.S. west coast, handling more than seven million tons of cargo with trade relationships with more than 55 countries.

San Joaquin County Behavioral Health Services (BHS) completed its initial, broad-based community planning process as set forth in the Request for Funding document submitted to the Department of Mental Health on March 15, 2005.

BHS views the Mental Health Services Act as a unique and unparalleled opportunity to accelerate its progress toward a culturally competent mental health system focused on recovery and wellness. The Mental Health Services Act will build on a foundation that includes:

- A successful AB 2034 program, the Homeless Engagement and Response Team (HEART) that embodies recovery and client empowerment values. AB 2034 provides intensive services to homeless persons with serious mental illness.
- An effective children and youth system of care in which SJCBS partners closely and effectively with child welfare, probation, education, judges, schools and a network of community agencies and providers.
- A strong investment in culturally competent services, including an effective Transcultural Clinic serving the Southeast Asian communities, establishment of the Black Awareness Community Outreach Program, and ten years of capacity-building to better serve the Latino community of San Joaquin County.

San Joaquin County submits the following three-year plan that describes how the organization will act quickly to implement the Mental Health Services Act Community Services and Supports Three-Year Program Plan for Fiscal Years 2005-2006, 2006-2007, and 2007-2008.

Throughout the document, BHS has continuously addressed the Five Essential Elements inherent in the Mental Health Services Act. Through MHSA-funded strategies, BHS will work with consumers, families and communities to create culturally competent, consumer/family driven mental health services, and support activities that are wellness focused, that support recovery and resilience, and offer integrated service experience for consumers and their families.

BHS is proposing twelve (12) new or expanded programs that utilize one of the three types of funding available: Full Service Partnership Funds, General System Development Funds, and Outreach and Engagement Funds. Implementation will occur in a timely fashion to ensure a thoughtful and effective rollout of MHSA-funded programs and strategies.

The proposed programs and budgets reflect the need to access historically underserved ethnic and unreached populations, such as the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender groups.

Table 1. San Joaquin County Mental Health Services Act Program and Funding Categories

Funding Category	Specific Program – Strategy
Consumer Support	The Wellness Center
Full Service Partnerships (includes Outreach and Engagement components)	Child and Youth Full Service Partnership
	Black Awareness Community Outreach Program (BACOP)
	La Familia Full Service Partnership
	Southeast Asian Recovery Services (SEARS)
	Forensic Full Service Partnership Court Program
Support to Full Service Partnerships	Gaining Older Adult Life Skills (GOALS)
	Community MHSA Consortium (for ethnic outreach and service coordination support) Housing Empowerment and Employment Recovery Services
System Development	Community Behavioral Intervention Services
	24/7/365 Community Response Team
	Co-Occurring Residential Treatment Program

The San Joaquin County Funding Request for MHS Community Program Planning focused on addressing and reducing disparities of access to mental health services for underserved ethnic communities within the County. The planning process followed through with that commitment by involving nine community-based organizations that represented a broad array of communities: Hmong, Cambodian, Vietnamese, Laotian, Native American, African American, Latino, Muslim/Middle Eastern, and Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender communities. The partnership with the CBOs enabled underserved segments of the community to effectively participate. The voices of the underserved and unserved resonate loudly throughout the Community Services and Support Plan.

Addressing disparities of access in ethnic communities is the transformative theme of the San Joaquin County CSS plan. This theme involves three overarching strategies:

1. **County – Community Full Service Partnership Model.** The Full Service Partnership (FSP) model is built on Behavioral Health Services staff providing the core clinical services, with community-based organizations reflective of the nine communities, providing outreach, engagement, support and case management. The core County staff and the CBO staff together form the FSP teams.
2. **Community, Consumers and Families at the Core.** In order to continue the transparency and inclusiveness that was developed through community outreach with consumers, families and underserved ethnic communities at the core of the planning process, a Community MHS Consortium will be established. This working group will meet weekly and will become a driving force in the continuing transformation of mental health services in San Joaquin County, just as it drove the focus of the planning process.
3. **First 90 Days Model.** The Black Awareness Community Outreach Program (BACOP) has developed a promising model for engaging new and inappropriately served consumers to help them successfully access services. This model, termed both the “First 90 Days Model” and the “BACOP Model”, was adopted throughout the CSS Plan by programs as an effective way to improve access to services for underserved ethnic communities. The BACOP Model involves providing the consumer, at first point of contact with San Joaquin County Behavioral Health Services, with a personal navigator of like culture and ethnicity whom can provide support, guidance and help reduce the stigma of receiving treatment for a mental illness.