



# Transforming Mental Health Services

## SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT

### Public Comment Compilation

Note: PM after the comment indicates that the comment occurred during the April 24<sup>th</sup>, Mental Health Advisory Board public comment meeting on the MHSA Draft Plan

#### **Black Awareness Community Outreach Program comments:**

1. In lieu of attendance, there were 141 comment sheets prepared that stated support of the proposed BACOP section of the Mental Health Services Plan
2. BACOP needing more operating money; have already donated over \$ 400,000 in outreach, engagement and system development
3. I reviewed and heard some comments regarding the MHSA Plan and the portion pertaining to the cost associated with the BACOP program. I would suggest it is always in the best interest of the writer to be proactive by answering obvious questions up-front. Therefore, I would recommend the following:
  1. That a statement of explanation be provided that acknowledges the cost differential and speaks to the reason why this program is costing more per client slot.
  2. The statement could be a short addendum to the budget pages or be a \* placed at the bottom of the budget page.
  3. The explanation should recognize the fact that both the Asian and Hispanic groups have existing mental health programs at County Mental Health and in the community.
  4. The statement should explain that for the African American group there are no such programs specific to this population at Mental Health or in the community, and the BACOP proposal would act to develop the infrastructure and capacity both in County Mental Health and in the Community (CBO) to meet the needs of the African American population.
  5. Finally, BACOP will have the added responsibility to provide oversight and support to the Middle Eastern Muslim, American Indian, and Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender groups contracted to do outreach.
4. Need full participation of African American community secondary to higher incidence of mental illness and crime; implement the model program you've designed (PM)
5. Look at cost-benefit analysis of BACOP 90-Day Model

### **Justice System Program**

1. Need more drug/court programs to help people stay out of trouble and help with employment services (PM)

### **La Familia**

1. La Familia at about \$11,000 per person and two other programs much higher (BACOP at ~ \$ 18,000 and GOALS at \$ 12,987); need to look at the equity of this when we show the high Latino need (PM – 2 comments)

### **MHSA Plan in general**

1. The plan was well done and there was a lot of community input, including consumer and family input – 18 replies
2. Process was great (PM)

### **Other**

1. Transportation needs to be emphasized as it was emphasized during the community input and consensus meetings (PM)
2. Access to mental health services was difficult at the beginning, but better now (PM)
3. I would like to see more of the money invested in Board and Care
4. Mental health department here is wonderful; started to transform before Prop. 63 (PM)
5. Remember the hard work that went into building the Plan and the relationships in the community and continue this work (PM)
6. Consumers have been really involved in meeting inclusion, consensus groups and education at web cast trainings (PM)
7. Remember to care with heart to heal the mid of mentally ill

### **Staff**

1. Mental health staff need more training
2. Staff need to re-charge on a regular basis and find ways to handle negative energy

### **Wellness Center**

1. Coordinate with existing services i.e. with Gipson Center. (PM)
2. Thanks for keeping Gipson Center open; Board and Care consumers need help with transitioning back into community; Gipson Center needs transportation to and from instead of being stuck at the B & C (PM)
3. Need to define Wellness Center to emphasize more than drop-in center as socializing, napping etc. by need to focus around defining values as first stages of recovery, volunteering opportunity, part time employment, place

- to go besides B & C during day; transforming Services; consumers to run groups; involve B & C members – support groups, advocacy, socialization; transportation to increase attendance for psych treatment and primary care treatment (PM)
4. When will Wellness Center start? A: not set at this time, awaiting State approval of funds (PM)
  5. What Gipson Center to stay open and didn't expect to see it move. A: Gipson Center will not more; Wellness Center is in addition to Gipson, so will be two separate centers (PM)
  6. Gipson Center good at building self esteem; consumers benefit in relationship to what they put in; concerned about all ethnic groups & GLBT (PM)
  7. Encouraged by changes in the system – Wellness Center is a good idea; will add spiritual part of recover (PM)
  8. Gipson Center needs monitored shower and washing machine facilities