

Stanislaus County Behavioral Health & Recovery Services  
A Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Service Organization

# MHSA NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 2  
June 2007

## JUNE CONTENTS:

- Featured MHSA Program: CERT (GSD)
- MHSA in Stanislaus County: Growth Plan
- Performance Measurement Update

*...a newsletter to share information about Stanislaus County's Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) programs with staff, consumers, stakeholders, other county departments and the community at large.*

## A TALE OF TWO INNOVATIONS

By Kenneth R. Huntley, Ph.D., MFT, CERT Coordinator

*The purpose of life is a life of purpose*  
~Robert Byrne

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), previously known as Emergency Services, provides a critical role in providing mental health services to residents of Stanislaus County. In the spirit of improving our practices and being sensitive to the needs of our community, several recent innovations have been taking place within our program. Allow me to share this exciting news with you.

The first innovation has been the introduction of an On-site Peer Support and Warm Line in collaboration with Turning Point Community Programs. Since its inception 11 months ago, the Warm Line and On-site Peer Support have proven to be important resources to members of our community who need some help making it through the day. The Warm Line program provides 24-hour phone support for individuals in non-crisis circumstances. The On-site Peer Support area affords an opportunity for consumers to meet with a peer support person face to face, to have someone to share their challenges with, and to hear the message of wellness, recovery, and resiliency.

Our second innovation has been the development and recent implementation of a joint venture with Modesto Police Department and our Mobile Community Response Team (M-CERT) to provide community-based services. This program is a result of and response to stakeholder feedback requesting more proactive and emergency mental health services in the community. M-CERT involves Mental Health staff riding along with Modesto Police officers in the community and being first responders to individuals in crisis and emerging crisis. We currently have two evaluators trained and riding with MPD, providing community-based services two days a week with a goal of ultimately being able to provide this service seven days a week.

For more information or if you have questions, feel free to contact CERT and/or me at 558-4600.



The MHSA-CSS (Communicate, Share and Support) Meeting is held the 4th Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Redwood Room, 800 Scenic Drive.

## TRANSITION AGE YOUTH CONFERENCE HELD IN MODESTO

*By Jim Hurley, Coordinator, Josie's Place*

On April 17<sup>th</sup> the California Institute of Mental Health held a Transition Age Youth Regional Conference at Modesto's Doubletree Hotel. The Conference keynote was comedian Michael Pritchard whose speech was both funny and thought-provoking.

The TAYA service team, Josie's Place staff and about ten of our young adult members attended the Conference as did staff from Outreach/Engagement contractors, El Concilio and West Modesto King Kennedy Neighborhood Collaborative. Having our young adults attend honored the expression, "Nothing about us, without us."

With collaboration as the theme, this conference explored some "nuts and bolts" ways various programs and agencies come together and collaborate to better serve young people ages 16 to 25. Our department was ably represented on a panel by Cynthia Borges-O'Dell, Coordinator of BHRS Child Welfare Services.

The need for collaboration is obvious when providing supports and services to youth and young adults. Multiple systems and agencies are involved in young people's lives (as Children's System of Care staff and contractors well understand!) The actual practice of collaboration and networking with others is a task that takes time, patience and commitment. Organizations all have different mandates, funding streams, policies and practices, and referral criteria.

Immediately following the Conference, Josie's Place hosted a reception and tour of the Drop-In Center. About 30 individuals attended the reception where we did our own local and regional networking.

Those of us who work with young people have our work cut out for us. In addition to all the effort it takes to collaborate, thankfully it also means we are not in this alone!

## MHSA IN STANISLAUS COUNTY

*By Karen Hurley, MHSA Coordinator*

We are pleased to announce that the **MHSA Growth Funding and Program Expansion Funding Request** is available for public review and comment through the month of June at <http://stanislausmhsa.com/ThePlan.htm>



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## YOU'RE INVITED!

### Come to the Grand Opening!

The Consumer and Family Employment and Empowerment Center's kitchen is opening soon and is having a fundraiser on **Friday, July 13, from 11 am to 4 pm**. You may purchase a spaghetti or chicken lunch for \$7.50 or dinner for \$15.00. "Drive thru" service will be provided. Deadline for ordering: July 6th. Location: 800 Scenic, Bldg 4. The CFEEC Kitchen will provide food service, education and training for consumers, family members, BHRS staff customers and the community. Enter the contest for "Name Our New Kitchen." Forms are located throughout the BHRS campus. Deadline: 6/29. Winner to be announced in the next newsletter.



### New!! MHSA PAF Clarification Report

New from Performance Measurement is the "MHSA PAF Clarification Report". This report was designed to help line staff ensure BHRS gathers and submits accurate data. It is a quick and easy way to identify and correct issues / discrepancies with the information provided on PAF Teleforms. This report and subsequent corrections made enable BHRS to provide reliable MHSA data to the California Department of Mental Health. Once data is clean and correct we'll be able to generate outcome data and report what our programs are doing to reduce hospitalizations, increase employment and housing, and meet other established MHSA goals.

Representatives of the Performance Measurement Team will visit all Full Service Partnership programs to introduce and distribute the new reports. If anyone has questions, please contact Stacey Della at 525-6048 or any other member of the Performance Measurement Team.

*If you have questions or suggestions regarding MHSA, please forward them by I.D. mail or email to:*

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