

MHSA Newsletter

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

...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.



MHSA Five Essential Elements:

- Community Collaboration
- Cultural Competence
- Client/Family-Driven Mental Health Systems
- Wellness for Recovery & Resilience
- Integrated Service Experiences

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MARK TWAIN WELLNESS PROJECT: COLLABORATION BETWEEN MHSA-WET AND LOCAL CBO

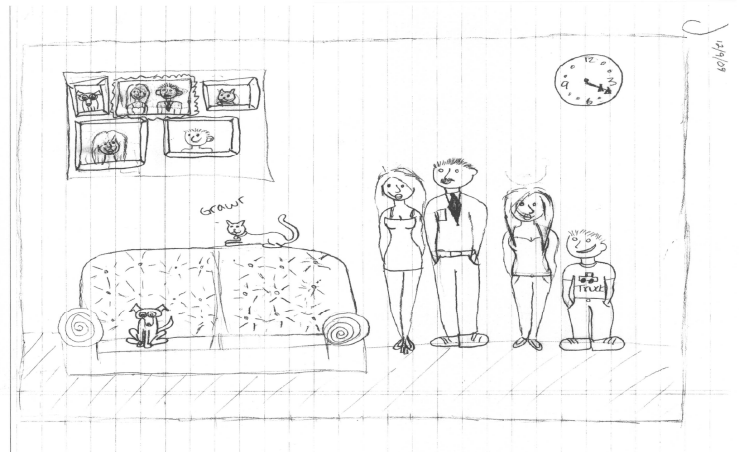
By Barbara Anderson, WMKKNC Program Director

The West Modesto/King Kennedy Neighborhood Collaborative (WMKKNC) and MHSA Workforce, Education and Training (WET) collaborated on a project designed to provide information and stimulate interest in the behavioral health field at the junior high school level. The Mark Twain Wellness Project is project-based and the young people themselves help define the projects. There are six stipends for \$50 per semester, per student.

After recruiting six students, we met and decided on a project. The students painted a banner that was on display, developed flyers to pass out, and set up an anti-stigma information table at the Day of Hope held at the King Kennedy Memorial Center on May 29, 2009. The project was very successful. The students learned a lot from the different speakers that presented at the event.

There are now six new students and most have never heard of "behavioral health" or "mental health" as a career option so we have spent time talking about mental illness and mental health. Students visited Josie's Place Drop-In Center for Transition Age Youth in December where they were able to talk to staff and members about programs, activities, and their role as staff. The students were divided into three groups of two and were asked to discuss, draw, and write about what wellness means to them. This is one of the drawings and their thoughts.

"Ann and I think the picture is a good example of a well family. We think this looks like a well family because the house is clean and organized. They have clean clothes and good hygiene. Most importantly, none of them have a cough or cold and they all look like they are happy!! Plus they have everything they need and a little more."



**STANISLAUS MULTI-CULTURAL COMMUNITY HEALTH COALITION
WEST MODESTO/KING KENNEDY NEIGHBORHOOD COLLABORATIVE**
Effective Black Parenting ▣ Faith-Based Community Organizing ▣ Family to Family Services Healthy Birth Outcomes Project ▣ Healthy Eating Active Living Initiative ▣ Let's Spread the Word Outreach & Engagement Program ▣ Mental Health Services Act

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COMMUNITY SERVICES AND SUPPORTS HOUSING UPDATE

By Karen Hurley, MFT, MHSA Planning Coordinator

If you've been wondering what happened to planning for our local CSS-Housing Projects, here is an update:

The housing market and financing for housing projects has been deeply affected by the current economic crisis causing a slow down in development of our MHSA Supported Housing Projects. At this time we are happy to announce that submission of the Lincoln Avenue Seniors Project ('Bennett Place') is anticipated to occur in January 2010 (or soon thereafter). Coolidge Avenue Project and 615 5th Street are still in development and "middle" or additional financing must be secured for them to go forward.

Background Information on CSS Housing: The California Mental Health Director's Association (CMHDA) worked collaboratively with the California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA) and the state Department of Mental Health (DMH) to develop an MHSA Housing Program that fulfills a shared goal of developing a significant increase in long-term supportive housing for our communities. As a result of this unique partnership, CalHFA is administering the MHSA Housing Program on a statewide basis. Planning estimates are being transferred to CalHFA by DMH on behalf of counties. Most counties have executed an Assignment Letter agreeing to the transfer of funds on their behalf. CalHFA will hold the funds and invest the funds. The County may access the funds through submission and approval of an MHSA Housing Program Application. DMH and CalHFA have joint approval of all projects.

MHSA Housing Program applications are considered updates to a county's Community Services and Supports (CSS) Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan. Housing Program Projects must be designed with the goal of establishing and/or strengthening partnerships that result in development of housing that reflects local priorities and expands safe, affordable housing options for individuals with serious mental illness or youth with serious emotional disturbance and their families. Each supported housing project must have a Supportive Services Plan that describes the approach to providing ongoing supportive (mental health) services to occupants of housing.

Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services has an established history of collaboration with key community partners in the development of supported housing since 1997 when Garvey House was established. Discussions are ongoing with local partners to continuously investigate opportunities for funding and suitable properties for development into supported housing sites. This history of collaboration, combined with stakeholder input obtained during initial CSS Community Planning Process that addressed unmet housing need for all age groups, will be utilized in developing permanent supportive housing through the MHSA Housing Program.

To complete a project, the relatively small amount of MHSA funds must be leveraged with other forms of financing (e.g., HUD). The total amount of the planning estimate for Stanislaus County is \$4.8 million. Three projects are currently being developed and are expected to result in submission of applications in 2010 and beyond.

If you would like more information please contact khurley@stancounty.com or call 525-6274. Thanks!!

FSP Residential Changes

By Brenda Kachel, DMS/Performance Measurement

If a client is incarcerated, a residential change on a KET must be entered into the new Data Collection Reporting (DCR) system to reflect the new residential location.

If a client is placed on "Restoration to Competency" status while incarcerated and is moved to another facility, a new residential KET must be entered to reflect the change in location (i.e., acute psychiatric hospital or IMD). Even though the client is still technically considered "incarcerated," the client is no longer in the law enforcement facility and must be tracked accordingly.

CONGRATULATIONS! All FSPs began using the new DCR system January 13, 2010!

Six-Word Memoirs

Linda Downs—"I did it my way...survived!"

Tim White—"From sinking sand to solid ground."

Joanne Warner—"Big football fan, SF 49er faithful."

Ruben & Carolina Imperial—"Borders, running, studying, volunteerism, real life!"

Kimberlee Hamilton—"Tainted, damaged, defeated...determined, disciplined, triumphant!"

Jeff Sabean—"Travel and SCUBA diving I enjoy"

Jim Hurley—"Bloomed late; discovered a music niche."

John Black—"Recipient of Hope; now instilling hope."

Cherie Dockery—"In my 40's found speed walking."



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 (unless otherwise notified).



If you have questions or suggestions regarding MHSA, please forward them by I.D. mail or e-mail to: Carol Jo Hargreaves, BHRS / Administration, e-mail: chargrea@stancounty.com; or Karen

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