



# **Stanislaus County**

## **Mental Health Services Act Community Services and Supports (CSS) and Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI)**

**FY2009-10 Prudent Reserve Funding Request**

**February 2010**

## **Introduction**

On August 6, 2009, Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) received Information Notice No. 09-16 from the California State Department of Mental Health (DMH) as an update to the DMH Prudent Reserve policy. Specifically, the Information Notice advises counties on:

- the addition of Prevention & Early Intervention (PEI) approved funding levels in the calculation of the required Prudent Reserve level;
- the addition of PEI services as an allowable use of Prudent Reserve Funds;
- how PEI funds made available prior to Fiscal year 2008-09 may be used to fund the Prudent Reserve;
- how access to the Prudent Reserve will be determined; and ,
- an updated process for requesting to place funds in the Prudent Reserve.

(The Prudent Reserve was previously addressed in DMH Information Notice 07-25, 08-01, 08-10, 08-28.) For more information go to DMH Website:

[http://www.dmh.ca.gov/Prop\\_63/MHSA/Publications/default.asp#LettersNotices](http://www.dmh.ca.gov/Prop_63/MHSA/Publications/default.asp#LettersNotices)

Prudent Reserve was established in the Mental Health Services Act as a fund to be established and maintained by Counties to ensure that programs and services will continue to be able to serve those currently being served during an economic downturn resulting in a decrease in MHSA funding. Funding of Prudent Reserve is a requirement, unless the County would have to reduce existing MHSA services to do so.

Previously, Stanislaus County has not dedicated any funds to Prudent Reserve because all funds were utilized to maintain services and supports. Stanislaus County's PEI plan was approved on May 28, 2009, and is in early implementation phase. FY2007-2008 PEI funds must be spent prior to June 30, 2010, or they will revert back to the State for redistribution. In order to retain all PEI funds for local programs, \$500,000 is being dedicated to Prudent Reserve. To dedicate funds to Prudent Reserve, the County should submit the form included in the Information Notice, signed by the local Mental Health Director. Access to Prudent Reserve funds may only be authorized with DMH approval.

### **Documentation of the local stakeholder review process:**

During the 30-day public review and comment period conducted from January 22 through February 20, 2010, the Prudent Reserve Funding Request FY2007/08 was circulated using the following methods:

- Public notices were posted in seven newspapers throughout Stanislaus County including a newspaper serving the Latino community. The notice included reference to [www.stanislausmhsa.com](http://www.stanislausmhsa.com) and a phone number for requesting a copy of the draft plan
- An electronic copy was posted on the County's MHSA website: [www.stanislausmhsa.com](http://www.stanislausmhsa.com)
- Paper copies were sent to 13 branches of Stanislaus County Public Library resource desks
- Electronic notification was sent to all BHRS service sites with a link to [www.stanislausmhsa.com](http://www.stanislausmhsa.com) announcing the posting of the draft plan and how to obtain copies
- Representative Stakeholder Steering Committee members, Mental Health Board members, and other interested stakeholders were sent notice informing them of the start of the 30-day review and how to obtain a copy of the draft plan
- An Informational Meeting was held on February 2, 2010, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m., at 800 Scenic Drive, Redwood Room, Modesto, CA