



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GHC JPA Client California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) Posts PEI
Implementation Work Plan for Public Review and Comment

SACRAMENTO, CA (October 13, 2010) – The California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA), a newly formed California joint powers authority (JPA) comprised of counties focused on the efficient delivery of California mental health projects and programs, announced today it has delivered on its first major project to post its Statewide Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Implementation Work Plan for public review and input. The growing JPA is administered by George Hills Company. It has a contract with the California Department of Mental Health (CDMH) to provide program development, administrative oversight, and fiscal management services to county members and other program participants choosing to assign specifically named mental health funds to the joint powers authority. All contract agreements are in accordance with the statutes governing joint powers agreement entities and the Mental Health Services Act.

Collaboratively developed, CalMHSA's PEI Implementation Work Plan is posted on CalMHSA's website (www.calmhsa.org) and has been sent to CalMHSA's many members, partners and stakeholders for review. The Work Plan describes how \$129 million dollars of Mental Health Service Act funds will be available for the purposes of implementing California's Statewide Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Plan to Prevent Suicides, Reduce Stigma and Discrimination, and Improve Student Mental Health Services on University and School Campuses.

A thirty day public comment period began on October 7, 2010 with feedback encouraged in writing via email or regular mail by November 6, 2010. Please send to CalMHSA, Attention Laura Li, George Hills Company, 3043 Gold Canal Drive, Suite 200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6394 or to email, laura.li@georgehills.com. Comments should be presented specific to page number and section of the Implementation Work Plan. Please provide name, organizational

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affiliation (if any) and contact information with your comment submissions. CalMHSA will post all public comments on its website in a timely manner for viewing. Full consideration will be given to all submission. CalMHSA would appreciate early submissions. The final PEI Implementation Work Plan will be presented the CalMHSA Board on November 12, 2010.

The CalMHSA Statewide PEI Implementation Work Plan currently under public review outlines funding estimates for the first phase of the statewide implementation. It contains priorities and themes, and focuses on recommended actions and budget information. A similar format was used for Suicide Prevention, Stigma and Discrimination Reduction, and the Student Mental Health Initiative. A second phase will occur once all funds are in from all counties that join CalMHSA. When the Work Plan is approved, requests for proposals (RFPs) will be released, containing more detailed scopes of work and budget information. Funding for these programs comes exclusively from Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds.

As of today, CalMHSA has 28 of California's 58 counties as members—Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Los Angeles, Marin, Modoc, Monterey, Orange, Placer, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter/Yuba, Trinity, Contra Costa, Fresno, Imperial, Riverside, Ventura, Lake, Yolo, Kern, San Diego, Santa Clara. Since not all counties are members yet, the Plan will implement eighty-one percent of the available resources.

Formation of CalMHSA as a JPA was started last year as a collaborative effort of a County and State mental health professionals seeing the need for a more efficient and effective delivery of California mental health projects and programs through pooled expenditure of county funds for specified projects and programs. The list of its founding members include: Allan Rawland, MSW, Director, San Bernardino County Department of Mental Health (Current Board President); the late Mike Oprendeck, LCSW, Mental Health Director, Solano County Health and Social Services (Former Board Vice President); Wayne Clark, PhD, Behavioral Health Director, Salinas, California, Monterey County (Current Board Vice President); Curtis Boewer, MPA, MFT, Mental Health Director, Colusa County; Karen Baylor, PhD, MFT, San Luis Obispo County Mental Health Director (Current Board Treasurer); and Denise Hunt, RN, MFT, Behavioral Health Director, Stanislaus County. John Chaquica, CPA, MBA, ARM, President, George Hills Company also assisted in CalMHSA's formation as did Douglas R. Alliston from the Sacramento-based law firm Murphy, Campbell, Guthrie & Alliston.

Creation and evolution of CalMHSA, provides for the identification and connection of local mental health needs with like mental health needs in other regions across the state, and maximizes the use of resources through administrative cost sharing and other efficiencies. CalMHSA also helps optimize the development and implementation of mental health service training, technical assistance, skill-building, and strategies.

Says Allan Rawland, MSW, CalMHSA Current Board President and Director, San Bernardino County Department of Mental Health: "We are focused on being collaborative and innovative in our resource pooling efforts and development of common strategies and programs so counties can jointly develop and fund mental health services and education programs. CalMHSA is not a legislative agency setting codes and regulations, nor is it an advocacy or approval body. Our PEI Implementation Work Plan shows the value we place on transparency, inclusiveness, accountability, flexibility, scalability, and optimum use of resources. We encourage feedback so we can deliver our final plan with public input and comment to the CalMHSA Board on November 12, 2010."

About CalMHSA

The California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) is joint powers authority (JPA) of California counties and is focused on the efficient delivery of California Mental Health Projects. Member counties jointly develop, fund, and implement mental health services, projects, and educational programs at the state, regional, and local levels. Counties interested in joining CalMHSA should contact John E. Chaquica CPA, MBA, ARM, CalMHSA Executive Director, President, George Hills Company, Inc. at 3043 Gold Canal Drive, Suite 200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6394. He can also be reached via phone at 916.859.4824, and by email at john.chaquica@georgehills.com For more information go to <http://www.calmhsa.org>.

About CDMH

The California Department of Mental Health (CDMH), entrusted with leadership of the California mental health system, ensures through partnerships the availability and accessibility of effective, efficient, culturally competent services. This is accomplished by advocacy, education, innovation, outreach, understanding, oversight, monitoring, quality improvement, and the provision of direct services. CDMH employs more than 12,000 employees in eight locations throughout the state, including its headquarters in Sacramento, five hospital facilities, and two acute care facilities within the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. As a state public agency, CDMH has worked hard to transform and improve the state's mental health systems of care by working with the mental health constituency to develop a system of partnerships and coordinated interagency efforts. For more information go to <http://www.dmh.ca.gov>.

About MHSOAC

With the passage of Proposition 63 in November 2004, the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission was established to oversee specific parts of the Mental Health Services Act including Prevention and Early Intervention Programs, Innovative Programs, Human Resources, Education and Training Programs and sections of the Adult and Older Adult System of Care Act and Children's Mental Health Services Act. The Commission has primary responsibility for Prevention and Early Intervention and Innovative Programs including issuing Guidelines and approving county plans for those two program areas. For more information on MHSOAC go to <http://www.dmh.ca.gov/MHSOAC>.

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