

**Sonoma County Department of Health Services
Mental Health Services Division**

**Mental Health Services Act
Capital and Technology Component Plan**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In November 2004, California voters approved Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), intended to expand and enhance community mental health services throughout California. MHSA has six separate components: Community Services and Support (CSS), Housing, Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI), Innovations, Capital Facilities and Technology, and Workforce Education and Training (WET).

The Capital Facilities and Technology funds are to be used to support community-based integrated service experiences for clients and their family members, consistent with the county's CSS plan. This component can be used to acquire and build upon land, acquire buildings, construct buildings, renovate buildings, or to establish a capitalized repair/replacement reserve for buildings purchased with Capital Facilities funds. This component can also be used to develop county technology systems that are accessible, interoperable, comprehensive information networks that can facilitate the highest quality, cost-effective services and supports for consumer and family wellness, recovery and resiliency and can securely capture, exchange, and utilize information.

Community Planning Process

Sonoma County's public planning process for the Mental Health Services Act began in the fall of 2004 and has continued over the last eleven months. Following principles outlined in the Act, planning extended out to the community in a significant effort to be inclusive and representative of mental health stakeholders. Sixty-two planning meetings were held throughout the County, with nearly 280 individuals and 100 community organizations and law enforcement agency representatives participating.

In order to develop new services that truly represented the desires and needs of the Sonoma County community, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) planning process was envisioned as an open participatory process that included the perspectives of mental health consumers, family members, community agencies, and providers. The planning process was designed to follow four guiding principles:

- Be inclusive and representative
- Be transparent and easy for all participants to understand
- Be collaborative and in partnership with consumers, families and the community
- Include broad participation from diverse groups throughout Sonoma County

Since November of 2007, the Sonoma County Mental Health Division (SCMHD) has conducted a number of community meetings and focus groups to gather input from stakeholders related to the utilization of the Mental Health Services Act Capital and

Information Technology funds to further the goals of system transformation and improve client outcomes. The identified information technology projects were the following:

- Modernize, transform and integrate clinical and administrative information systems in support of increased quality of care and operational efficiencies
- Support consumer and family empowerment by providing access to information and facilitating communication

The need for improvements to existing County-owned buildings occupied by MHSA programs as well as the need for new Mental Health facilities was identified as a high priority in all stages of the MHSA planning process. Capital Facilities and Technology funds will be utilized with to make improvements to County-owned buildings which are dedicated and used to provide MHSA services to consumers. Possible projects identified in the planning process include the following:

- West Wing of the Norton Center – currently an abandoned Inpatient Unit. Phase 1: Refurbishing of the Norton Center to allow the Inpatient Unit to be used for MHSA children’s programs.
- Wellness & Advocacy Center - County-owned facility where Consumer-run MHSA services are provided. Facility needs a new heating/cooling system; kitchen upgrades will make a consumer-run food service business possible.
- Chanate Hall Adult Facility - County-owned facility needs a new heating/cooling system and upgrades to the bathrooms and lobby area. Upgrades will create more space for MHSA adult services.
- Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) program: At County-owned facility, will provide an outside area, away from local businesses, where clients can sit at picnic tables while awaiting their appointments.
- Other potential projects might include a new facility to provide services in an area of Santa Rosa with easy access for ethnic minority and hard to reach individuals and families. Project may include office space and upstairs apartments for consumers (blended MHSA capital & housing funding). Another project might include rehabilitation of an existing healthcare facility into an acute psychiatric inpatient facility. Refurbishing of the Psych Emergency Services area in the Norton Center.

This is not to exclude other projects that might be identified as further input from the community is gathered, or as the needs of MHSA programs develop. Any Capital Facilities projects or expansions will be vetted by General Services and approved by the CAO or Board of Supervisors prior to implementation.

Distribution of Capital Facilities and Technology funds

In the Capital Facility and Technology Needs Component proposal to the State, MHD is proposing distribution of funding in the following manner:

Total Capital and Information Technology Funding	\$	4,917,600	
Capital Facilities Allocation		2,917,600	59%
Information Technology Allocation		2,000,000	41%

It is the intent of Sonoma County to review the facilities needs identified and pursue the expansion of those services that have proven to be effective. Other programs might still be in the start-up phase or very early in the implementation, which could result in substantive changes and additions to the above list of identified space needs. It is also recognized that capital facilities acquisitions could be driven by the availability of property and unique opportunities which might arise. Each situation will be researched carefully, reviewed, and evaluated for the positive impact to behavioral services provided. The goal is to avoid the delay of innovative programs currently in the planning stages, implementation phase, or which are in need of expansion.

In keeping with the core values of the MHSA, collaboration with other agencies will be a primary focus for all the facilities, to increase outreach and work towards the concept of well rounded, integrated services to individuals suffering from mental illness. There are clear, proven benefits to this model of treating the whole person with the goal of self-sufficiency for those who might otherwise face homelessness or dependence on the state for years to come. Sonoma County will pursue facilities projects which will include prevention, and emphasize client-centered, family focused, and community-based services that are culturally and linguistically competent, provided in an integrated services system.

Sonoma County will collaborate with developers and other agencies to support this integrated model and to maintain the integrity of this component, which is to support the Workforce Education and Training, Prevention and Early Intervention, and Innovation components, as well as the original Community Services and Supports plan.