

# COUNTY OF ORANGE | HEALTH CARE AGENCY | BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT | TECHNOLOGY FACT SHEET

## **TECHNOLOGY**

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) provides funding for services and supports that promote wellness, recovery and resiliency. A portion of the MHSA funds have been specifically set aside for Technology. The County must show that use of these funds will:

- Modernize and transform clinical and administrative information systems to improve quality of care, operational efficiency and cost effectiveness.
- Increase consumer and family empowerment by providing the tools for secure consumer and family access to health information within a wide variety of public and private settings.

#### Required Components of an MHSA Funded Project

Any MHSA funded technology project must meet certain requirements to be considered for approval by the State.

- It must fit in with the State's long term goal to develop an Integrated Information Systems Infrastructure where all counties have integrated information systems that can securely access and exchange information.
- It must be part of and support the County's overall plan to achieve an integrated Information systems infrastructure through the implementation of an Electronic Health Record (EHR).

#### **Use of Technology Funds**

County of Orange Behavioral Health Services (BHS) plans to implement a fully integrated EHR system that supports the goals of MHSA to promote wellness, recovery and resiliency. Our approach in executing this project is a two-phased scenario. We have completed the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of upgrading our infrastructure to provide us with the necessary platform upon which to develop the functionality needed to further enhance our EHR. These enhancements would include the core clinical documentation management system with clinical decision support; medication and prescription management; mobile access to the EHR; a Personal Health Record (PHR) with consumer access via a portal; and kiosks in selected locations to afford increased consumer/family access to computers and the internet. Additional technical improvements to our EHR would include document imaging (which includes such functionality as electronic signature pads and the ability to scan documents); compliance auditing, monitoring, and reporting; and the ability to include contract providers either by interfacing with their respective systems or by allowing them access to the County system, improvements in system performance, and the ability to securely interface with Health Information Exchanges outside County BHS as appropriate. Further enhancements will be made to the disaster recovery system and ensure continued control over clinical data security and privacy.

### **Funding**

The MHSA Steering Committee has approved the redistribution of the Capital and Technological Needs funds received by the Health Care Agency to allow a larger portion to go to Technology projects, approximately \$24 million. The project proposal has been approved at the local level as per the current MHSA regulations and will be implemented after a 30-day public review and comment period.