



**COUNTY OF ORANGE
HEALTH CARE AGENCY**

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

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*Excellence
Integrity
Service*

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Date: October 10, 2008

Subject: Assignment of Mental Health Services Act Prevention and Early Intervention Funds for Statewide Projects

Dear Mental Health Stakeholders and Interested Community Members:

In addition to Orange County's Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) component allocation, additional PEI funds are available for Statewide PEI Projects. Three projects will be funded: Suicide Prevention, the Student Mental Health Initiative, and Stigma and Discrimination Reduction. The Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) PEI Statewide Projects will be administered by the California Department of Mental Health (DMH) in collaboration with the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (OAC) and the California Mental Health Directors Association (CMHDA).

The resources associated with these Statewide Projects can be made available to counties only if the funding is assigned to DMH as the single administrative entity. Orange County plans to take advantage of this opportunity to bring additional PEI resources to the County. Therefore, an agreement has been drafted to assign to DMH the funds allocated to Orange County for the Statewide PEI Projects. This agreement will enable Orange County to participate in and benefit from the Statewide PEI Projects. Potential benefits include training and technical assistance provided to the County and its PEI partners, support for the implementation of PEI Projects, media and social marketing materials in multiple languages, model program sites, enhanced state and local partnerships, research and evaluation activities, and statewide quality improvement activities.

The Assignment Agreement authorizes the transfer of MHSA funding to DMH to administer these three programs. The amount to be assigned is a total of \$13,336,800 over a four-year period (\$3,334,200 per year for FY 08/09, 09/10, 10/11, and 11/12).

The MSHA PEI Statewide Projects Assignment Agreement is available for public review and comment through November 10, 2008. Copies of the Agreement are available on the MHSA website, <http://ochealthinfo.com/mhsa/pei/>, and at the Health Care Agency (HCA) Behavioral Health Services (BHS), Mental Health Services Act Office. This office

is located at 600 W. Santa Ana Blvd, Suite 510, Santa Ana, CA 92701. The office may be reached by phone at (714) 667-5620.

For your convenience, a Public Comment form is also posted on the MHSA website and is available at the HCA/BHS MHSA Office. Please send your comments to the MHSA Office at the address stated above. You may also email comments to mhsa@ochca.com.

Thank you for your ongoing support and your active participation in the MHSA planning process. Together we are transforming the Orange County public mental health system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Refowitz" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark A. Refowitz
Behavioral Health Director