

Workforce Education and Training Programs – Transfer to OSHPD

Summary

The Governor's Budget proposes to transfer \$27.255 million in budget authority in FY 2012-13 for the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Workforce Education and Training (WET) Program from the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD). OSHPD's vision is "Equitable Healthcare Accessibility for California" and the WET Program aligns with OSHPD's existing efforts to promote the distribution, diversity, competency, collaboration and capacity of California's health delivery system, particularly among rural and urban inner city areas of unmet need.

Background

The MHSA imposes a 1% tax on personal income in excess of \$1 million to support the public mental health system (PMHS) via prevention, early intervention and services. Historically underfunded, the PMHS suffers from a shortage of mental health providers in addition to maldistribution, lack of diversity, and under-representation of practitioners with client experience. The MHSA WET funds assist counties to develop and maintain a culturally competent workforce capable of providing client and family-driven services promoting wellness, recovery and resilience.

Governor's Proposal

The \$27.255 million in budget authority being transferred includes:

- **Contracts with 11 Institutions to Provide Stipends to Students in Mental Health Programs.** In exchange for a stipend, students perform their supervised hours in the community PMHS and work for 12 months in the PMHS. (\$10 million per year)
- **Contracts with Three Psychiatric Residency Programs.** These programs add psychiatric residency rotations and fund psychiatric residency staff to co-locate in PMHS offices and conduct their rotations in the community. Two of these contracts are fully executed and DMH will be going out to bid for the third. (\$1.35 million per year)
- **Contract with Statewide Technical Assistance Center.** The Center provides leadership, training, and technical assistance regarding recruitment, hiring, retention and support of employees; evaluates replicable model programs; and will disseminate information on the effectiveness of various strategies to stakeholders across the state. (\$800,000 per year)
- **Contracts with Regional Partnerships.** To expand outreach to multicultural communities, increase diversity, reduce stigma associated with mental illness and promote the use of web-based technologies and distance learning techniques, counties have been grouped into five regional partnerships. (\$3 million per year; however, funds are not allocated in FY 2012-13 as the \$9 million in WET funds were fully distributed for FY 2011-12 through FY 2013-14 in one lump sum; in addition, the Governor's May Revise of the budget proposes FY 2013-14 \$9 million for 3 fiscal years)
- **Development of WET Five-Year Plan.** The current WET plan is from April 2008 to April 2013. The plan includes statewide needs for professional and occupational categories and develops a plan for education and training. (\$6 million, one-time budget year appropriation)

Contracts for the stipend programs, psychiatric residency programs, statewide technical assistance center and regional partnerships are multi-year, have varying end dates and funded through an annual appropriation.

This proposal supports community mental health efforts and aligns with OSHPD's existing programs:

- **Mental Health Programs**

- The Mental Health Loan Assumption Program offers up to \$10,000 to mental health providers serving in hard-to-fill and/or hard-to-retain positions in the PMHS in exchange for a 12-month service obligation. To date, MHLAP has received 5,401 applications requesting \$53,895,430 in financial incentives and awarded \$14,101,077 to 1,733 mental health practitioners. (\$5 million per year – funded by MHSAs)
- The Physician Assistant Training for Public Mental Health provides a mental health track to the Song-Brown Program, which provides grants to educational institutions to support the education of specified health providers. To date, the program has awarded \$1.23 million dollars to five educational institutions that have trained 863 physician assistants that can sign treatment plans as well as prescribe and administer psychotropic medications. (MHSAs funding portion: \$500,000 per year)
- The mental health component of the Shortage Designation Program (SDP) collects and analyzes data about California's mental health workforce; identifies Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas (MHPSAs); and coordinates with stakeholders in addressing those shortage areas. To date, the SDP has designated 167 MHPSAs (66 completed with MHSAs funding) throughout California and documented that 5,113,785 residents currently live in MHPSAs. (MHSAs funding portion: \$130,000 per year)

- **Other Workforce Programs**

- OSHPD's Healthcare Workforce Development Division increases access to health care for underserved populations and advances the recruitment and training of future health professionals. Last year, the Division funded over \$12.3 million in training and financial incentive awards to 2,449 students via the Mini Grants program, 82 providers practicing in 33 counties via the State Loan Repayment program, 62 educational programs through the Song-Brown program; and conducted outreach to over 7,000 students, parents, and educators on clinical training and educational opportunities; assisted over 361 communities in their efforts to be designated as health professions shortage areas; and continues to develop a centralized workforce and education data infrastructure to support analyses of California's healthcare workforce supply and future demand via the Healthcare Workforce Clearinghouse Program.
- The Health Professions Education Foundation increases access to health care in underserved areas by recruiting and placing health professionals in those areas via 12 financial incentive programs to practitioners of nursing, medicine, dentistry, mental health and other health professions. Since its inception, the Health Professions Education Foundation has awarded \$59 million in scholarships and loan repayments to 4,611 students and health providers serving in 56 of the state's 58 counties.