

**Mental Health Services Act
Workforce Education and Training**

**Licensing and Certification
Special Topic Workgroup**

**Increasing the Number of Licensed Persons
Teleconference Call**

September 6, 2006

1. Present via phone:

- a. John Blando, California Coalition for Counselor Licensure
- b. Michael Brooks, American Board of Examiners in Clinical Social Work
- c. Rolando Castillo, Grossmont College, Welcome Back Program
- d. Wendy Desormeaux, Department of Mental Health
- e. Geraldine Esposito,
- f. Warren Hayes, Department of Mental Health
- g. Paul Riches, Board of Behavioral Science Examiners
- h. Mary Riemersma, California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists
- i. Gloria Robertson, Office of Statewide Health Planning Department (OSHPD)
- j. Inna Tysoe, Department of Mental Health

2. Discussion.

The group reviewed and discussed the potential list of strategies that could increase the number of licensed individuals that was generated at the July 12th Licensing and Certification Special Topic Workgroup meeting. Paul Riches, from the Board of Behavioral Science Examiners, indicated that the Board was looking at the portability of licenses, among other issues, and indicated that the Board was directing attention to adapting licensure requirements to professionals working in public mental health. It was decided that further workgroup activity in this area would support licensing initiatives that are being considered by the Board. It was recognized that California had over 50,000 licensed individuals, and that the workgroup should direct attention to strategies that would increase the share of licensed individuals working in community public mental health; most notably, individuals addressing the need for a more diverse, bicultural/bilingual staff.

3. Strategy.

The group focused discussion on establishing financial incentives, via MHSA, to increase the number of qualified licensed supervisors of interns who work in community public mental health settings. Currently there exist sufficient available

licensed supervisors in the private sector (often at a fee to the intern), but the availability of supervisors in community public mental health settings is problematic. This is because county mental health programs, because of the shortage of licensed staff, need the staff time to generate billable hours. Strategies need to be developed to bring willing interns on to community public mental health settings under the supervision of licensed professionals. These licensed supervisors could be drawn from both inside and outside the community public mental health agency. The group emphasized that any financial incentive programs include training and technical assistance to potential licensed supervisors and their interns on the principles, values and practices that are consistent with the intent of the Act.

4. Next Step.

The DMH Education and Training Unit will engage the assistance of county mental health representatives recommended by the California Mental Health Director's Association in order to further develop this strategy into a fundable proposal for consideration.

5. Next Meeting.

The larger workgroup will meet again to review small group progress on Tuesday, October 3 at the California Endowment.