

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

**Training and Technical Assistance for Current Employees, Service
Providers and Community Partners/Curriculum Fidelity and
Consumer/Family Member Employment in Mental Health
Combined Special Topic Workgroup**

November 14, 2006

1. Present.

- a. Chad Costello, Mental Health Association Los Angeles
- b. Wendy Desormeaux, Department of Mental Health
- c. Casey Dorman, Orange County Mental Health
- d. Karen Hurley, Stanislaus County Mental Health
- e. Sharon Kuehn, California Network of Mental Health Clients (CNMHC)
- f. Connie Lira, California Mental health Planning Council
- g. Olivia Loewy, American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists CA
- h. Anna Lubarov, Contra Costa County Mental Health Office of Consumer Empowerment
- i. Jay Mahler, Alameda County Mental Health
- j. Kimberly Mayer, Contra Costa County Mental Health
- k. Lea Nagy, Humboldt County Mental Health Consumer and Family Member Liaison
- l. Mike Oprendek, California Institute for Mental Health (CIMH)
- m. Rick Ramirez, Gardner Family Care Services San Jose
- n. Vicki Smith, California Institute for Mental Health (CIMH)
- o. Cary Temple, Consumer Representative Los Angeles
- p. Toni Tullys, California Institute for Mental Health
- q. Inna Tysoe, Department of Mental Health
- r. Connie Valentine, CA Protective Parents Association

Present by Telephone: Gail Farrell-Suydan, DMH Expert Pool

Facilitator: Warren Hayes, Department of Mental Health

2. Review of Draft Documents.

The group was updated on the status of MHSA education and training projects, and discussed and provided input on a draft working definition and function of a proposed Workforce Education and Training Council. The group then reviewed input provided by representatives from professional organizations as well as the public at the September 25 and 26 General Stakeholders' meetings on the Tracks and Topics and Core Competency documents produced by education and

training special topic workgroups. After discussion the group decided that volunteers from the meeting's attendees would further refine the documents. Gail, Anna and Connie volunteered to review tracks and topics, and Toni, Sharon, Cary, Anna and Chad volunteered to review the core competencies instrument. The group further endorsed the idea that everyone (licensed and unlicensed) should have the competencies listed and that those competencies could be utilized by job function or profession, as appropriate. The documents developed by these smaller workgroups would then be reviewed before going out to the whole workgroup, and ultimately be used by DMH as guidance documents for communication with counties pertaining to submission of county education and training plans.

3. Consumers and Family Members as Trainers/Employment Supports.

The group was provided an update and discussed proposed state level funding strategies for the recruitment, support and retention of consumers and family members in public mental health, and the development of consumers and family members' capacity to assist as trainers. The funding for these strategies is imminent, and initially address the needs articulated by the Consumer and Family Member in Public Mental Health Workgroup in June. They would also provide replicable models for counties to build similar and additional programs into their local education and training plans. The group articulated a need to have a centralized statewide workforce support center to provide coordination and sharing across the state of effective strategies, technical assistance, and leadership in such areas as:

- Developing job descriptions, job announcements and duty statements that would encourage individuals with consumer and/or family members experience to apply for public mental health employment
- Addressing barriers posed by human resource regulations, policies and practices that interfere with the hiring of consumers and family members
- Reasonable accommodations for individuals with functional limitations from mental health issues
- Supportive supervision
- Addressing workplace stigma

This input will be considered in implementing state level support to the integration of consumers and family members into all aspects of public mental health.

4. Next Meeting.

A next meeting date was not set, pending resolution of the governance structure of the proposed Workforce Education and Training Council by the Statewide Advisory Group; i.e., how the membership from these two special topic workgroups will integrate with the statewide advisory group. In the interim the group's assistance and input will be solicited on an ongoing basis by teleconference and email as proposed documents and decisions are developed in the workforce education and training arena.