

Solano County Mental Health
Mental Health Services Act
Innovation Community Planning Summary

The California Department of Mental Health (DMH) issued guidelines for Innovation, the final component of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), on January 30, 2009.

Solano County held a series of community planning meetings from May-July 2009 to gather consumer and stakeholder input into Solano's Innovation plan. Community planning meetings were advertised in a wide range of venues, including email distribution lists, newspapers, public locations, and public meetings, including the Consumer Family Advisory Committee (CFAC), National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), the Local Mental Health Board, MHSA Stakeholders, Early Childhood Developmental Health Collaborative, and Clinic Alliance. Specific outreach was conducted to consumers. Eighty stakeholders, over half of which were consumers or family members of consumers, participated in community planning meetings.

Out of the 4 funding priorities, the one most often selected during community planning meetings was *Access to Services for Underserved Groups*. The identified underserved groups that were identified most often were adult residents of northern Solano County (Vacaville, Dixon, Rio Vista) and the homeless population.

The majority of activity and project ideas fell under two categories:

1. Information and outreach
2. Access to medication or clinical services in non-traditional places, including primary care, homeless shelters, and other community sites.

In Fiscal Year 2009-10, MHSA expanded Outreach & Engagement (O&E) efforts and is currently drafting an implementation plan. The information and outreach ideas submitted during the Innovation planning sessions will be incorporated into the O&E implementation plan that will unfold in the 2009-10 Fiscal Year and future years. The O&E plan will be shared with MHSA Stakeholders fall 2009.

Consequently, the focus of Solano County's Innovation plan will be on access to medication and clinical services in non-traditional places. A survey is being released to gather additional input for specific activities and non-traditional sites that should be included in Solano County's Innovation Plan. In addition, Solano County is gathering input on how this Innovation would contribute to learning, including what Solano County expects to learn and how the plan can be evaluated for effectiveness.

The tentative timeline for the submission of the Innovation Plan is as follows:

- Activities and evaluation criteria from planning meetings and the survey will be shared at the MHSA Steering Committee on August 26, 2009.
- In September 2009, the Innovation Plan will be posted for a 30 day public comment period and all Stakeholders, including mental health consumers and their family members, are strongly encouraged to review it and comment.
- Following the public comment period, the Innovation Plan will be presented at a Public Hearing at the Local Mental Health Board in October 2009.
- The Innovation Plan will be submitted to the Department of Mental Health (DMH) early November 2009.

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Please help Solano County draft our Mental Health Services Act Innovation Plan by answering the following questions:

1. What activities should be funded as part of Solano County’s Innovation Plan under the funding priority of increasing access to services for underserved groups? (check up to 3)

- Psychiatrist at primary care site
- Therapist at homeless shelter
- Psychiatrist/medication support at homeless shelter
- Psychiatrist/medication support for community based organizations who do not have it
- Mobile Mental Health Clinic that could visit different sites in Solano
- Other: _____

2. How will Solano County know if the Innovation Plan is achieving the goal of increasing access to services for underserved groups? What should the evaluation criteria be? (check up to 3)

- The diversity of people served becomes closer to the diversity of Solano County overall
- There will an increase in service delivery to the identified underserved population(s)
- The staff at the site of the services report an increased ability to meet the mental health needs of the identified underserved population(s)
- Other: _____

3. Please let us know who you are:

- Mental health consumer
- Family member of a mental health consumer
- Mental health provider
- Healthcare provider
- Community service provider
- Other Stakeholder

