CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
Mental Health

1600 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 654-2309

March 15, 1999

DMH INFORMATION NOTICE NO: 99-05

TO: LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS
LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM CHIEFS
LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATORS
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
CHAIRPERSONS, LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH BOARDS

SUBJECT: ORYX PARTICIPATION BY COMMUNITY BASED PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS

We recently received a memorandum from the NASMHPD Research Institute regarding the ORYX Performance Measurement System which was approved by the JCAHO for state hospitals. At their last meeting, the ORYX Steering Committee recommended that community based psychiatric hospitals which provide public mental health inpatient services be invited to participate. A copy of the memorandum is enclosed.

Both Short-Doyle/Medi-Cal funded hospitals and those Fee-For-Service/Medi-Cal hospitals which have a contract with a Mental Health Plan are included in this invitation. We recommend the ORYX Performance Measurement System and encourage each county to act on this information as soon as possible.

If Short-Doyle/Medi-Cal and Fee-For-Service funded hospitals are interested in participating in this process, please instruct them to contact Dr. Robert Littrell, ORYX Project Manager at (502) 564-8344 or Nick Burgeson at (916) 654-3600.

Sincerely,

John Rabling

for STEPHEN W. MAYBERG, Ph.D.
Director

Enclosure

NASMHPD RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Noel Mazade, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Theodore Lutterman
Director of Research Analysis

Howard Goldman, M.D., Ph.D.
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Robert Littrell, Pharm.D.
Interim ORYX Manager

January 26, 1999

URGENT
ACTION FAX MEMORANDUM
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RECEIVED
FEB - 4 1999
MEDICAL OVERSIGHT
SOUTHERN REGION

TO: State Mental Health Commissioners/Directors
FR: Noel Mazade, Ph.D.
Executive Director

RE: ORYX Participation by Community-Based (Non-State) Psychiatric Hospitals

As you are aware, the JCAHO has approved the NASMHPD Research Institute's (NRI) ORYX Performance Measurement System for state hospitals. To date, approximately 140 state hospitals have indicated their intent to participate.

During its recent meeting, the ORYX Steering Committee (composed of Commissioners Hogan, Selig, Sudders, Wilson, and Gorman) recommended that both for-profit and not-for-profit community based psychiatric hospitals be invited to participate only if the Commissioner indicates that such hospitals are considered to be a provider in the states' overall system of public mental health inpatient services. In many states, general hospitals with psychiatric units, county hospitals, and selected private hospitals have contracts with the state mental health agency or otherwise provide care for public patients paid by the state. Having these hospitals as part of the state's overall template of inpatient services both permits patients to remain in their own communities during treatment and potentially reduces the number of admissions to the state hospital.

This memo is to request your immediate assistance in determining which hospitals in your state you may wish to have included in the ORYX project, if such hospitals would be interested. We require immediate feedback from you to allow these hospitals sufficient time to review the technical requirements of our system and to enroll by the March deadline.

Two options are available for hearing from you:

1. Either forward us the hospital name, address, phone, and name of a contact persons. The NRI will then contact the hospital directly and discuss their ORYX participation; or

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NASMHPD Research Institute, Inc.
TO: State Mental Health Commissioners/Directors

2. Your office should contact the hospital directly and invite them to contact the NRI if they are interested in exploring ORYX participation with us.

In either case, once we have the information, we will provide necessary materials and technical assistance for the hospital to determine their participation with the NRI ORYX system.

Should you wish to discuss this issue further, Ted Lutterman, NRI's Director of Data Analysis. Ted may be reached on 703.739.9333, ext. 21.

Annual Fee

The Steering Committee and the NRI have established the per hospital rate at $4,500 for the period January-December 1999. This same rate would be charged to community-based hospitals discussed above.

If possible, please communicate with us by February 5.

Your list of potential hospitals should be sent directly to:

Dr. Robert Littrell, ORYX Project Manager.
Phone 502. 564.8344.
Fax: 502. 564.3844
E-mail: rlittrell@mail.state.ky.us

Likewise, psychiatric hospitals you refer to us who may be interested in exploring the ORYX should also contact Dr. Littrell.