



September 2, 2009

To: Interested Parties  
From: Ann Arneill-Py, PhD  
Executive Officer  
Subject: Public Notice: Comment on Memorandum of Understanding  
Date: September 22, 2009  
Time: 1:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.  
Place: California Institute for Mental Health  
2125 19<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA 95818  
Sequoia Room

Conference Call Access:  
Dial-In Number 1-866-249-5279  
Participant Code: 257016

In June 2008 the Office of State Audits and Evaluations (OSAE) completed a performance audit of the Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) administered by the Department of Mental Health (DMH). One of its observations related to the undefined roles and responsibilities of MHSA entities. The audit found that the MHSA identifies the implementation participants as the DMH, Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC), California Mental Health Planning Council (CMHPC), counties, and stakeholder community groups. It also found that the roles and responsibilities have evolved based on each entity's interpretation. Some interpretations may overstep the intentions of the MHSA, limit other entities' functionalities, and create duplicative tasks.

As a result, the OSAE recommended that the entities work collaborative to come to an agreement on the roles and responsibilities to ensure consistency and functionality with the MHSA. It further recommended that the entities develop regulations that define the roles and responsibilities of each entity involved in the MHSA and communicate the roles and responsibilities to affected parties. In January 2009, the DMH, MHSOAC, CMHPC, and California Mental Health Directors Association commenced work on a memorandum of understanding (MOU). It was determined that this was a sufficient vehicle for established roles and responsibilities and that regulations were not required. The MOU was completed in May 2009, whereupon it was signed by DMH and CMHDA. The MHSOAC signed the MOU with its approval sunsetting in October 2009. The CMHPC signed with MOU with its approval sunsetting in January 2010.

The CMHPC is seeking public comment from stakeholder community groups on the provisions of the MOU. A meeting to obtain public comment is being held at the above date and time. A written copy of the public comment is desirable. If you have any questions, please contact Ann Arneill-Py, PhD, Executive Officer, at (916) 651-3803 or by email at [Ann.Arneill-Py@dmh.ca.gov](mailto:Ann.Arneill-Py@dmh.ca.gov).

Attachment