

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

**Licensing and Certification
Medi-Cal**

TELECONFERENCE CALL

September 19, 2006

1. Present via Telephone.

- a. Kathleen Austria, Health Care Workforce Development Manager, Los Angeles
- b. Wendy Desormeaux, Department of Mental Health
- c. Casey Dorman, Orange County Mental Health
- d. Warren Hayes, Department of Mental Health
- e. Greg Pomerleau, Mental Health Association, Los Angeles
- f. Vicki Smith, California Institute of Mental Health
- g. Inna Tysoe, Department of Mental health

2. Discussion.

The group discussed the issues of 1) expanding the categories of individuals who are eligible to sign treatment plans, 2) expanding the definition of mental health rehabilitation specialist to include individuals certified as psychosocial rehabilitation practitioners, and 3) re-examining the codes and definitions of what services are billable to Medi-Cal, in order to enable such psychosocial activities as peer, employment and housing support to be eligible.

It appears that these issues are being pursued on parallel tracks with staff from the Board of Behavioral Examiners, CIMH and CASRA. The group recommended that the positions be restated at the October 3d meeting, with group consideration as to what would be appropriate for workforce education and training efforts versus policy efforts. These issues have been recognized for some time, appear to have significant potential to impact workforce shortages, but have not been moving toward resolution, primarily to a perception of a more conservative response from the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS), and perceived guild resistance.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 3d at the California Endowment from 10 until 3.