

The Department of Consumer Affairs, Board of Behavioral Sciences' (DCA/BBS) goals and corresponding objectives and actions are to increase the quality and success of educating and training the public mental health workforce in the expressed values of the MHSA. MHSA funding will be used to develop curricula to train and retrain staff to provide services in accordance with the expressed values of the Act, promote the inclusion of cultural competency in all training and education programs.

BBS will increase the partnership and collaboration of all entities involved in the public mental health workforce education and training by establishing regional partnerships within the public mental health and educational systems in order to expand outreach to multicultural communities and increase the diversity of the public mental health workforce, reduce the stigma associated with mental illness, and promote the use of web-based technologies and distant learning techniques.

DCA's activities reported to DMH for the period 1/1/09 – 6/30/09 are as follows:

1. Program Information

- a. Brief summary of the major activities performed during FY 2008-09

**Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) Education**

The Board has proposed changes to the MFT curriculum beginning in 2012, which would infuse content related to MHSA and public mental health. Legislation was introduced in 2008 but was vetoed by the Governor. It was re-introduced in 2009 as SB 33 (Correa).

**Supervision and Experience**

The Board has proposed to permit, via SB 33 (Correa):

- Pre-licensed persons to obtain supervision via videoconferencing, and unlimited supervision hours using this method in public mental health settings.
- Persons working toward MFT licensure to count hours of experience providing client centered advocacy toward licensure.

**National Health Service Corps/HR 2810**

Staff have provided technical advice to members of Congress to assist them in deliberations to make National Health Service Corps (NHSC) loan forgiveness more readily available to California Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs). HR 2810 was introduced June 10, 2009, by Congresswoman Matsui and contains language that would permit the NHSC to consider accepting California-

licensed LCSWs participation in this program, which provides up to \$50,000 in loan forgiveness to clinicians in exchange for the first two years of full-time service at an approved site in a Health Professional Shortage Area.

### LCSW Education

The Board has appointed a committee to explore the education required to become a LCSW. The committee is investigating how LCSWs are prepared to practice in a variety of settings, including public mental health and MHSA settings. This committee has met five times since May 2008.

### Examination Program Review

The Board initiated a review of its examination programs, including discussions about incorporating the knowledge required to work in MHSA and public mental health settings into the examinations. The Board has appointed a committee and contracted with a testing expert to assist in this process. The Committee has met four times since December 2008.

### Ethics Review

The Board has appointed a committee to review the content of the ethics codes for the professions regulated by the Board, and determine if revision may be needed to reflect differences for professionals working in a recovery-oriented practice environment. This committee was scheduled to meet in August, but this was postponed due to the state budget and related limitations.

- b. Identify 2 or 3 activities or accomplishments that are considered highlights and help further the intent of the MHSA (e.g., achieving system change)

### MFT Education

The proposed changes to MFT education require MHSA principles to be incorporated throughout the degree program. Until the legislation passes, MFT Educators are being provided with resources to facilitate adoption of the proposed new content including:

- A resource web page located at:  
[www.bbs.ca.gov/bd\\_activity/mft\\_educ\\_comm\\_update.shtml](http://www.bbs.ca.gov/bd_activity/mft_educ_comm_update.shtml)
- A series of content training sessions which began in March 2009 and will continue throughout the year
- A technical assistance program

- **An annotated resource bibliography expected to be released in August 2009 (DRAFT copy attached).**

**The Board has hired consumers to act as trainers and provide technical assistance to MFT educators regarding the proposed changes.**

### **Supervision and Experience**

**Allowing pre-licensed persons to obtain unlimited supervision hours via videoconferencing in public mental health settings is expected to relieve some of the supervision shortages experienced by these settings, especially in rural areas.**

**Client centered advocacy is defined as including, but not limited to:**

**“...researching, identifying, and accessing resources, or other activities, related to obtaining or providing services and supports for clients or groups of clients receiving psychotherapy or counseling services.”**

**Permitting persons working toward MFT licensure to count experience providing client centered advocacy is important because these activities are a central part of practice in a public setting and helps the practitioner provide recovery oriented care. It also provides pre-licensed MFTs with more flexibility in the types of hours they can count, leading to more willingness to perform these types of activities.**

- c. **Identify activities being coordinated with the local mental health system**

**None at this time.**