

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) was allocated MHSA funds to identify best practice models and provide training to enhance the effectiveness of the regional center and county mental health service systems to better identify and provide a competent response for those consumers who are dually diagnosed (i.e. have a developmental disability and a mental illness).

Through the identification and training of best practice models, DDS will improve clinical capacity and effectiveness of direct services. Additionally, DDS proposes to ensure ongoing statewide technical assistance to promote interagency collaboration regarding access to mental health services for consumers with a dual diagnosis.

DDS activities reported to DMH for the period 7/1/08 – 12/31/08 are as follows:

a. Brief summary of the major activities performed during FY 08/09

During the first reporting, DDS accomplished the following activities:

- A full-time Consulting Psychologist and Community Program Specialist (CPS) III were hired; and
- One half-time Mental Health Consultant is funded. The consultant staffs the Mental Health / Developmental Disabilities Collaborative as well as provides technical assistance to regional centers and community mental health agencies, when requested.

Accomplishments of this reporting period include the following:

- A Request for Application (RFA) was developed for regional centers to carry out mental health services on a local level. This application allows regional centers to apply for funding for projects concerning implementation of MHSA. Project areas addressed include training service providers, consumers, families, and clinicians on the needs of consumers with a mental health diagnosis.
- In September 2008, DDS hosted a Health and Wellness Forum. This three day seminar presented topics including improving service delivery systems for developmental disabilities, utilizing multi-agency teams to reduce psychiatric hospitalizations, and using risk analysis and data analyses in risk management.
- DDS, in partnership with the University of California San Francisco School of Medicine, developed the upcoming conference on Developmental Disabilities: Update for Health Professionals. The conference is scheduled for March 2009. Topics will include early childhood mental health, cross-cultural mental health treatment, and family issues across the life span for individuals with a dual diagnosis. More information can be found at www.cme.ucsf.edu.
- The RFA will be sent to the regional centers in February 2009. It incorporates a requirement of collaboration and coordination between the regional center and its local mental health agency.