

MONTEREY COUNTY

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ'S)

What is the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)?

The Mental Health Services Act ("MHSA") provides funding to counties to expand and develop mental health services for children, transition age youth, adults and older adults. Also known as "Proposition or Prop 63", California voters passed the MHSA in the November 2004 election. The MHSA collects an additional 1% tax from California residents with a personal income over \$1 million.

What services does the MHSA fund?

The MHSA is divided into three components: Community Services and Supports (CSS), Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI), and Innovation (INN).

Community Services and Supports (CSS) is the largest component of the MHSA. Eighty percent (80%) of the MHSA funds received by the County are allocated for CSS services. And at least fifty-one percent (51%) of CSS funds are required to be allocated to "Full Service Partnership" (FSP) services.

Full Service Partnership (FSP) is the term defined as an array of services available for those individuals with severe emotional disturbances (children and youth) and serious mental illness (adults and older adults) that include individualized client/family-driven mental health services and supports which emphasize recovery and resilience, and which offer integrated service experiences for clients and families/caregivers. FSP's are the majority of the services in the Community Services and Supports component.

Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) is the second largest component of the MHSA. Twenty percent (20%) of the MHSA funds received by the County are allocated for PEI services. At least fifty-one percent (51%) of PEI funds are required to be allocated to services for children and youth (and their families or caregivers). Prevention and Early Intervention services are those intended to prevent mental illness from becoming severe and disabling.

Innovation (INN) is the smallest component of the MHSA. Innovation funds are intended for short term projects that provide counties the opportunity to try innovative approaches to mental health services. INN projects require advance approval by the State Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission. The funds for Innovation consist of five percent (5%) of the CSS funds and five percent (5%) of the PEI funds received by the County.

Who oversees the implementation of the Mental Health Services Act?

The Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) provides oversight of the implementation of the MHSa throughout California. The MHSOAC consists of 16 voting members appointed by the Governor and other elected officials. At the County level, the Monterey County Mental Health Commission (MHC) reviews all draft documents and makes recommendations to staff regarding how services can best meet community needs. Members of the MHC are appointed by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors.

What is the Public Comment Period?

Monterey County Behavioral Health distributes the MHSa Three Year Program and Expenditure Plan and MHSa Annual Updates for Public Comment for a 30-day period.

How are Public Comments Submitted?

Comments and recommendations regarding the draft documents must be submitted in writing during the Public Comment Period either by email, FAX, regular mail, or hand delivered to the Monterey County MHSa Coordinator.

What is the purpose of the Public Hearing?

After the 30-day public comment period, the Mental Health Commission conducts a Public Hearing during one of their regular meetings. Staff present a summary of the recommendations received during the Public Comment Period. Other recommendations by those attending the Public Hearing are also noted for the record. The Commission then votes to recommend forwarding the final MHSa document for approval and adoption by the County Board of Supervisors.

How often do counties develop new MHSa plans?

All counties are required to develop Three Year Program and Expenditure Plans. **The next Three Year Program and Expenditure Plan will cover the period beginning July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020 (FY 2017-18 – FY 2019-20).**

What is the Annual Update?

All counties are also required to develop an Annual Update, the document covering each of the second and third years of the Three Year Program & Expenditure Plan. The primary function of the Annual Update is to update budget information based on a changing fiscal reality and, if needed, make changes to programs. The Annual Update does not typically include substantive changes to the MHSa Three Year Plan; this is more of a “check in”. The Annual Update also includes data regarding programs during the prior fiscal year period.

What does “Fiscal Year” mean?

The County and the State budgets are on a **Fiscal Year (FY)** basis. A Fiscal Year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30. For example, FY 2016-17 is the period that begins July 1, 2016, and ends June 30, 2017.

How do I get involved in the MHSA planning process?

Monterey County residents are encouraged to submit written comments and recommendations on the draft MHSA Three Year Program & Expenditure Plan and Annual Update. Residents can also attend the public hearings conducted by the Mental Health Commission.

For questions not covered in this “Frequently Asked Questions” document, please contact Monterey County’s MHSA Coordinator, Alica Hendricks at Hendricksa@co.monterey.ca.us.