

**Priorities for the
Department of Developmental Services (DDS)
Mental Health Services Act Cycle (MHSA) II (2011-2014)**

Five Fundamental Concepts of the MHSA

1. Client/Family driven mental health system;
2. Cultural competence;
3. Community collaboration;
4. Service integration; and
5. Focus on recovery, wellness, and resiliency.

Enhancing Community Capacity

1. Projects that promote mental health services to meet the needs of consumers exiting institutional settings, (such as those leaving Lanterman Developmental Center) including:
 - Identifying or developing mobile crisis services;
 - Accessing aftercare options; and
 - Training to professionals to develop individual assessments and develop comprehensive healthcare plans.
2. Projects that develop and/or use innovative technological solutions to increase access to services. These technological solutions shall make information accessible statewide.
3. Projects that provide specialized support services for transitional age youth that bridge the gap between high school and age 22. These may include, but are not limited to:
 - Education, work training, and career development;
 - Life skills training; and
 - Housing assistance and community living skills.
4. Projects that promote state of the art consultation and/or training to RCs, mental health agencies, and partnering agencies. Areas of training may include, but are not limited to the following:
 - Assessment approaches;
 - Diagnosing mental health conditions in persons with developmental disabilities;
 - Community-based program models that have proven to be effective; and
 - Program design, outcome measures, and inter-agency collaboration.

System Improvement

1. Projects that are performance-based, demonstrate a definable need (baseline) and objectives to meet the need, propose a data collection methodology, and identify measurable outcomes to be achieved. Some areas of focus may include:
 - Reducing the number of unplanned psychiatric visits; and
 - Decreasing the length of stay of consumers admitted to psychiatric facilities.
2. Projects that teach others how to collaborate effectively.

[Autistic Spectrum Disorders: Best Practices in Inter-Organizational Collaboration](#)

provides information and tools to strengthen collaboration skills in all inter-organizational settings, including working to integrate services for persons with developmental disabilities. Some may use the best practices, identified in the manual, as a guide in developing a new collaborative. Others may use the material to improve an existing collaborative.

3. Projects that include strategies to increase regional partnerships by collaborating with other RCs and local agencies, such as county mental health and education.

Service Integration

1. Projects that expand the development of competency training formats for consumers assessed as incompetent to stand trial. The competency training will be provided, in a community setting, to minimize a consumers' time spent in jail by training consumers with a dual diagnosis to be able to:
 - Understand the charge against them;
 - Gain a basic understanding of the criminal justice system, especially the role of the defense counsel;
 - Appreciate his/her situation as a defendant; and
 - Relate pertinent information to the defense attorney.

Replication of Existing Projects - See Attachment for Description of Projects

Note: Some of these projects were not funded via the MHSA.

1. *Solutions Building Demonstration Project*
2. *Anchor Project*
3. *Santa Clara County Infant Family Early Childhood Mental Health Certificate Program*
4. *Best Practices for Medication, Treatment, and Monitoring of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and Mental Illness*
5. *Los Angeles Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities*

Replication of Existing Projects Descriptions Attachment

1. *Solutions Building Demonstration Project* San Diego Regional Center (SDRC)

The *Solutions Building Demonstration Project* (Project) is a collaborative effort across multiple systems. This Project specifically focuses on adults who are:

- dually served,
- have a high frequency of recidivism,
- have high intensity behaviors that result in the frequent use of crisis services that include:
 - frequent unplanned psychiatric hospitalizations,
 - use of 911 and the PERT team, and,
 - use of the SDRC's mobile crisis team.

This Project examines specific strategies in cross systems collaboration for dually served adults.

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2. *Anchor Project* Golden Gate Regional Center (GGRC)

The *Anchor Project* is a collaborative effort between GGRC, San Francisco Community Mental Health and San Mateo County Community Mental Health. The project improves access to mental health services for consumers with mental health conditions through development of a treatment program for "high risk" consumers. The project also introduced consumers to group and individual psychotherapy, as well as psycho-educational training in anger management, social skills, human sexuality, and problem solving. Service providers also received training in behavior management, social skills, and sexuality training.

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3. *Santa Clara County Infant Family Early Childhood Mental Health Certificate Program*
San Andreas Regional Center

This certificate program provides training focused on the newly Revised Training Guidelines and Personnel Competencies for Infant-Family and Early Childhood Mental Health. Mental health professionals, early childhood educators, and other professionals working in the early education, mental health, and community services settings will fulfill certificate course requirements and share in field experiences with community-based, early childhood mental health programs.

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4. *Best Practices for Medication, Treatment, and Monitoring of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and Mental Illness*
San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center

Los Angeles County psychiatrists participate in local training on best practices in medication management, side effects, and monitoring. The program also includes a Fellowship Practicum for county-contracted and/or private psychiatrists to receive education that addresses issues concerning consumers with mental health needs. Training occurs “live” with consumers who are both receiving hospital in-patient and out-patient psychiatric services.

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5. *Los Angeles Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Education*
Westside Regional Center (WRC)

WRC, in partnership with North Los Angeles County Regional Center, established a cohort-based training collaborative to educate participants on recognition, screening, referral, evaluation, treatment, and supports for consumers with mental health issues.

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