



August 3, 2012

LARRY POASTER, PhD  
Chair

RICHARD VAN HORN  
Vice Chair

SHERRI GAUGER  
Executive Director

All County Mental Health Directors  
All County MHSA Coordinators

Dear County Director,

I am writing this letter to inform counties of a change related to Innovation Programs that are in effect after the Governor signed the 2012-13 Budget Act and Assembly Bill (AB) 1467.

As you may already know, AB 1467, enacted on June 27, 2012, amended Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5830(e) so that county mental health programs shall expend funds for their Innovations Programs upon approval by the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC). As a consequence, please note that the MHSOAC now has the responsibility for Innovation Program approval. To assist counties with program preparation, we attached an Innovation Review Tool, which has been revised to reflect current law. The MHSOAC is committed to making the review and approval process as smooth as possible and will actively provide technical assistance and support to guide counties through approval. For those counties that anticipate submitting an Innovation Program in the near future, the MHSOAC invites you to contact us if we can assist you in any way.

**A. Definitions**

**Pre-AB 100 Innovation Programs:** Innovation Programs that were approved by the MHSOAC before the enactment of AB 100 on March 24, 2011 are referred to as "Pre-AB 100 Innovation Programs."

**Post-AB 100 Innovation Programs:** Innovation Programs that were adopted locally after passage of AB 100 on March 24, 2011 and on or before June 27, 2012 are referred to as "Post-AB 100 Innovation Programs." These Innovations did not require MHSOAC approval.

**Post-AB 1467 Innovation Programs:** Innovation Programs that were approved by the County Board of Supervisors on or after June 27, 2012 when AB 1467 became law are referred to as "Post-AB 1467 Innovation Programs." These programs require MHSOAC approval.

**B. Innovation Programs Not Requiring MHSOAC Approval**

In an effort to ensure programs are not interrupted, Pre-AB 100 and Post-AB 100 Innovation Programs do not need MHSOAC approval.

We request that you send the MHSOAC a copy of your Post-AB 100 Innovation Program(s) so the Commission will have a copy of Innovation Programs for each county to support future Commission evaluations and the completion of future Innovation Trends Reports. Please find a copy of the 2012 Innovation Trends Report, which offers a broad view of counties' remarkable innovative efforts throughout the state.

**C. Innovation Programs Requiring MHSOAC Approval**

Innovation Programs that were approved by the County Board of Supervisors on or after June 27, 2012 when AB 1467 became law (Post-AB 1467) require MHSOAC approval before the county can expend Mental Health Services Funds for these programs.

**D. Proposed Changes to Current Innovation Programs**

A proposed change to a Pre-AB 100 or a Post-AB 100 Innovation Program that expands or reduces the amount of funding does not require MHSOAC approval if it meets all of the following criteria:

- a) continues the same primary purpose(s)
- b) continues the same learning goal(s)

Existing Innovation programs proposed to be expanded or reduced are considered to be previously approved if the above listed criteria are met. A proposed change to a Pre-AB 100 or a Post-AB 100 Innovation Program that does not meet all of the criteria listed above is considered a new Innovation Program and requires MHSOAC approval.

Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5847(b) all Innovation Programs that are part of a three year program and expenditure plan or annual update, whether or not they require MHSOAC approval, are required to be submitted to the MHSOAC within 30 days after adoption by the County Board of Supervisors.

New or updated programs that need to be submitted to the MHSOAC may be emailed to [MHSOAC@mhsoc.ca.gov](mailto:MHSOAC@mhsoc.ca.gov). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jose Oseguera, Chief of Committee Operations, at (916) 445-8722.

Implementing the current statute may create unforeseen questions. Working together and having open communication will ease the transition into the new fiscal year. I and my team look forward to the continued working relationship.

Best regards,



SHERRI GAUGER  
Executive Director  
Mental Health Services  
Oversight and Accountability Commission

Enclosure