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# AGENDA ITEM 13

## Information

January 28, 2016 Commission Meeting

Community Forum Plans for 2016

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**Summary:** The Commission is organizing a Community Forum in the San Mateo/Santa Clara region in the March/April timeframe. Staff also is exploring strategies to improve this component of our work, including opportunities to integrate Community Forums into other areas of the Commission's operations.

**Background:** The Commission routinely holds three to four Community Forums each year to gather information on the quality of mental health services across the state and to learn about challenges to California's mental health system or opportunities to improve that system.

Staff vacancies and turnover have constrained the Commission's ability to report out on Community Forums held in 2015. Commission staff also are working to identify lessons from earlier Community Forum experiences to improve this component of the Commission's work.

The Commission's traditional Community Forums are generally "open ended," with participants sharing information with the Commission that is relevant to their experiences. On November 2, 2015, Commission staff solicited input from the Community Forum Workgroup on the value of organizing community forums that are focused on the topics identified by the Commission for policy research. The Workgroup recommended keeping the "open ended" format but exploring the value of a more focused format in support of the Commission's policy research projects.

Staff will work with the Committee chairs and project chairs to identify opportunities to convene Community Forums that support the Commission's research priorities as well as continuing the Commission's traditional Community Forum efforts.

**Presenter:** Toby Ewing, Executive Director

**Enclosures/Handouts:** None

**Recommended Action:** Information item only.