



MHSOAC INFORMATION NOTICE #23-001

DATE: April 26, 2023

TO: County Mental Health Directors
County Behavioral Health Directors
County MHSOAC Coordinators
Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Priorities for the Prevention and Early Intervention Component of the Mental Health Services Act.

PURPOSE: To Provide Guidance to Counties Regarding PEI Priorities and the use of PEI Funds.

REFERENCE: Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5840.7; Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5840.8; MHSOAC January 30, 2020 Guidance on Priorities for Prevention and Early Intervention Component of the Mental Health Services Act.

MARA MADRIGAL-WEISS
Chair

MAYRA E. ALVAREZ
Vice Chair

TOBY EWING
Executive Director

BACKGROUND

This Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission Information Notice provides guidance to Counties regarding the implementation of Welfare and Institutions Code section 5840.7 enacted by Senate Bill 1004 (Statutes 2018 Chapter 843). The Commission is issuing this Notice pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 5840.8, which authorizes the Commission to implement this law through an information notice or related communication without taking regulatory action.

Section 5840.7 also authorizes the Commission to adopt additional programs that the Commission identifies, with community partner participation, “that are proven effective in achieving, and are reflective of, the goals stated in Section 5840.”

On January 30, 2020, the Commission issued a communication that stated “[t]he Commission has not at this time established priorities additional to those specifically enumerated in WIC Section 5840.7(a).” This Information Notice supersedes the Commission’s January 30, 2020 Guidance on PEI Priorities.

On March 23, 2023, through formal action, the Commission directed Staff to prepare an information notice indicating that the Commission has adopted additional priorities, regarding transition age youth not in college, and community defined evidence practices (CDEPs).

GUIDANCE

Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code sections 5840.7 and 5840.8, the Mental Health Oversight & Accountability Commission has adopted the following priorities for the use of prevention and early intervention funds, including two additional priorities that are identified in *italics* below:

- (1) Childhood trauma prevention and early intervention to deal with the early origins of mental health needs.
- (2) Early psychosis and mood disorder detection and intervention, and mood disorder and suicide prevention programming that occurs across the lifespan.
- (3) Youth outreach and engagement strategies that target secondary school and transition age youth, with a priority on partnership with college mental health programs *and transition age youth not in college*.
- (4) Culturally competent and linguistically appropriate prevention and intervention, *including community defined evidence practices (CDEPs)*.
- (5) Strategies targeting the mental health needs of older adults.

Section 5840.7(d)(1) requires that counties shall, through their MHSA Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plans and Annual Updates, focus use of their PEI funds on the Commission-established priorities or other priorities as determined through their respective, local community partner processes. If a County chooses to focus on priorities other than or in addition to those established by the Commission, “the plan shall include a description of why those programs are included and metrics by which the effectiveness of those programs is to be measured.”

In order to meet the requirements of Section 5840.7(d)(1), each County shall show in the PEI Component of its Fiscal Year 2024-2027 Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan, the following:

1. Which specific PEI priorities the County’s plan addresses, an estimate of the share of PEI funding allocated to each priority, and an explanation of how community partner input contribute to those allocations.

2. If the County has determined to pursue alternative or additional priorities to those listed in Section 5840.7(a), how the County made these determinations through its community partner process.
3. For any alternative or additional priority identified by the County, what metric or metrics relating to assessment of the effectiveness of programs intended to address that priority the County will measure, collect, analyze, and report to the Commission, in order to support statewide learning.

For any alternative or additional priority identified by a County in its plan, the County shall specify at least one metric through which it will assess the effectiveness of the program(s) intended to address that alternative priority. The County shall provide an explanation with supporting evidence as to the validity of the specified metric for its intended purpose.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this Information Notice, please contact Sharmil Shah, Chief of Program Operations at Sharmil.Shal@mhsoc.ca.gov.

Respectfully,



Toby Ewing
Executive Director