

Marin County Mental Health Services
Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)
Innovation (INN) Component
Community Planning Process Begins

Marin County Community Mental Health Services (CMHS) invites all interested stakeholders to join us in the MHSA Innovation planning process.

INN projects are novel, creative and/or ingenious mental health practices/approaches that contribute to learning, and that are developed within communities through a process that is inclusive and representative, especially of unserved, underserved and inappropriately served individuals. INN projects must be aligned with the General Standards as set forth in Title 9 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), section 3320. The six general standards are listed below:

1. Community Collaboration
2. Cultural Competence
3. Client Driven Mental Health System
4. Family Driven Mental Health System
5. Wellness, Recovery and Resilience Focus
6. Integrated Service Experience

Definition of Innovation: An Innovation project is defined as one that contributes to learning rather than a primary focus on providing a service. By providing the opportunity to “try out” new approaches that can inform current and future practices/approaches in communities, an Innovation contributes to learning in one or more of the following three ways:

- Introduces new mental health practices/approaches including prevention and early intervention that have never been done before, or
- Makes a change to an existing mental health practice/approach, including adaptation for a new setting or community, or
- Introduces a new application to the mental health system of a promising community-driven practice/approach or a practice/approach that has been successful in a non-mental health context or setting.

A practice/approach that has been successful in one community mental health setting cannot be funded as an INN project in a different community even if the practice /approach is new to that community, unless it is changed in a way that contributes to the learning process. Merely addressing an unmet need is not sufficient to receive funding under this component. By their very nature, not all INN projects will be successful.

As you can imagine the planning process will be challenging, and we welcome all interested stakeholders to join us. More information about the INN component including the INN guidelines can be found at the DMH website: www.dmh.ca.gov (then click on MHSA, then click on Innovation).

If you are interested in participating in this exciting opportunity please contact Pat Ventura by phone at 415-499-6769 or by email: pventura@co.marin.ca.us