

**Marin County Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Community Mental Health Services**

**Mental Health Services Act  
Capital Facilities and Technological Needs Plan  
Executive Summary**

In November 2004, California voters approved Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), intended to expand and transform community mental health services throughout California. The MHSA promises a vision of outreach and engagement, a philosophy of recovery and wellness, a belief in the strength and resiliency of each person with mental illness, and a recognition that they are to be embraced as equal members of our community. Recovery from mental illness is not only possible, it is to be expected.

This is a brief summary of Marin County's plan for Capital Facilities and Technological Needs.

**Principles**

- Client and family directed services consistent with the philosophy of wellness, recovery, resiliency, sustainability, and harm reduction
- Improved access by outreach to unserved and underserved populations.
- Culturally competent services for all ethnic and language groups.
- Full service partnerships to clients in all four age groups; children, transition age youth, adults, and older adults.

**Planning Process**

The planning process for the Capital Facilities and Technological Needs component of the MHSA consisted of three meetings of the MHSA Capital and Information Technology (IT) Workgroup in May, June, and July of 2008. The group participants were consumers, families, contract providers, Community Mental Health Services (CMHS) staff, and IT staff from the county and other contract providers. On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009, a focus group of consumers was held at the Enterprise Resource Center, the county's client run drop in center.

**Funding**

Marin County's funding is \$2,489,000 which must be used within ten (10) years for Capital and IT projects. Marin County has yet to identify appropriate capital facilities projects that fit within State parameters for MHSA Capital Facilities funding so will submit a plan for technological needs that allocates approximately 60% (\$1,893,900) of the total funding for the Technological Needs plan.

## Summary of Proposed Plan

Marin County will use the current Technological Needs Proposals to further advance CMHS towards a future paperless Electronic Health Record (EHR). Additionally we plan to build on current efforts to provide technology to further consumer empowerment. The current system provides the Marin Mental Health Plan with several elements of the electronic health records; however, we remain bound to hand written prescriptions and many paper documents. In addition, while we have advanced our EHR capabilities, our current billing system needs to be upgraded and modernized. The Technological Needs proposal consists of the following components.

1. **Consumer Empowerment Project:** This project will expand on existing resources at the Enterprise Resource Center by providing additional desktops and dedicated paid consumer staff time for training and IT expertise. Consumers in county contracted residences with 6 or more people will be provided with a dedicated desktop computer and access to the internet. A limited number of “loaner” laptops will be available for consumers participating on boards and committees, such as the Mental Health Board.
2. **E-Prescribing:** Electronic prescribing will be made available to Psychiatrists and Nurse Practitioners through RxNT a web based electronic prescribing program. Each provider will receive training on the e-prescribing process which will allow them to immediately submit prescriptions, renew prescriptions, and create a comprehensive data base of the drugs they prescribe, and use the drug and allergy interaction scale.
3. **Electronic Health Record and Emergency Back Up:** Currently CMHS staff and selected contract providers use Clinician’s Gateway to write electronic progress notes. This project will move the medical record further towards a complete EHR by adding 10-15 key forms on line. The project includes the provision for an expanded hardware configuration to provide for emergency back up in case of power or system failures. Additionally, the project will add digital signature pads as new operational components of the EHR. Using these devices, clinicians will be able to record client signatures on documents in the field or office.
4. **Management Practice Upgrade:** The current billing system INSYST is over 25 years old. The upgrade will replace the INSYST billing system and perform the following functions:
  - All billing and accounts receivable
  - Eligibility tracking
  - CSI reporting
  - Admissions, discharges and transfers
  - Demographic information
  - Determine ability to pay from financial information
  - Provide scheduling

5. **Scanning Project:** Administrative staff will be trained on the use of the IMAviser scanning program which will be installed at key clinical sites. The purpose of adding scanning capabilities to the EHR is to incorporate the variety of paper documents which currently reside in the paper medical record. As part of the evolution to a full EHR, the IMAviser application will assist administrative support staff as they scan various paper documents into the system. The IMAviser is fully integrated into the Clinician's Gateway product that allows authorized clinical staff at any workstation to access key documents necessary for their work.

### **Conclusion**

The enhancement of the Electronic Health Record and expanded technology access and training for consumers will serve both the Mental Health Services Act goals of modernization of our information system and consumer empowerment. All of these changes will help to transform CMHS into a more efficient and effective organization.