



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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## **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT PLAN WINS STATE APPROVAL**

*Plan Includes Funds for Seriously Mentally Ill Adults, Older Adults, Seriously Emotionally Disturbed Children*

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) has been notified by the State Department of Mental Health that HHSA's Mental Health Services Act Community Services and Support Plan has been approved.

The Community Services and Support Plan will provide more than \$25 million annually to San Diego County for mental health services. The plan was developed by HHSA, in collaboration with community stakeholders and community members, including clients, youth and family members. Workgroups considered needs, issues, and MHSA requirements to make recommendations that were synthesized into a plan reviewed by the public, then forwarded to the State.

"This is a great day for San Diego County," said Alfredo Aguirre, Acting Mental Health Director. "The approval of this plan will address the needs of many individuals in our community."

The MHSA new programs include: a North County walk-in assessment center, \$2 million in expanded outpatient services for schoolchildren, and almost \$7 million in intensive case management services/housing resources for young adults, adults and older adults with serious mental illness, many of whom may be homeless.

The full range of programs includes wraparound services for children with serious emotional disturbance and their families, client/family-run peer services, supports for child dependents and wards of the courts, and integrated mental health and primary care health services. Some services will start as early as June.

The Community Services and Support Plan is one of six components of the MHSA; additional funding for other components including Capital Facilities/Technology, Prevention/Intervention and Innovation will be available beginning this fall.

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