

*Dedicated to the Health
of the Whole Community*



Mental Health Administration
828 South Bascom Avenue, Suite 200
San Jose, California 95128
Tel (408) 885-5770
Fax (408) 885-5788
Fax (408) 885-5789

3/28/2012

TO: Victor Ojakian, President
Mental Health Board (MHB)

FROM: Bruce Copley, Deputy Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Copley", is written over the name in the "FROM:" field.

SUBJECT: Status of Mental Health Peer Support Worker

On May 9, 2011, I provided a status report to the MHB on the development and implementation of the Mental Health Peer Support Worker (MHPSW) county positions. This report was requested as the result of conversations and meetings the then President of the MHB had with the dependent contractors. The President expressed frustration the dependent contractors were not receiving health and other benefits provided coded county employees. Secondly, he questioned the delay in the development and hiring of the MHPSW positions. At the time of the MHB meeting there were ninety-five (95) dependent consumer contractors working in the ECCAC, Self-help Center, Family Affairs Office and as peer counselors at the adult outpatient clinics.

I reviewed the status of the coded MHPSW positions and indicated that these positions were to be in place beginning in August 2011. The report detailed the number of full-time and half-time codes that would be available. I emphasized in this presentation to the MHB that due to the increase in cost per employee with health and retirement benefits the net number of staff would be reduced and that in the future any dependent contractor staff employed as consumers would be limited to a maximum of ten (10) per week.

The report went on to explain that there would be ten (10) full time and twenty-nine (29) half-time codes for a total of thirty-nine (39) county coded positions and additional part-time dependent contractor positions depending on the availability of funding after the coded positions were hired. At this point all available funds have been allocated to the coded county staff. I have directed Deane Wiley to work with the Department in identifying potential funds that can be utilized for dependent contractors in the FY12/13 budget.

The Department is committed to the further development and employment of the MHPSW positions. The MHPSW position is essential in the development of the consumer-centered recovery services called for in the MHSA plan, and currently being developed in the Adult/Older

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Status of Peer Support Staff

Adult and Family and Children redesign projects. As new funds are made available the Department will seek further expansion of the MHPSW positions.

The genesis of developing this coded county position started with the original development of the MHSA CSS plan in 2005. Due to the budget reductions that hit the Department in the ensuing years the development and implementation of this position was delayed. MHD staff has been diligent in pursuing the fulfillment of this MHSA objective with the development and hiring of these positions. With the implementation of AB 109 the Department is intending to develop two more full time MHPSW codes.