



Health, Housing & Community Services
Mental Health Division

Greetings!

Your input and comments are invited on the **Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) DRAFT Innovations (INN) Plan Amendment** which has been posted on the website for a 30-day Public Review and Comment period. The 30-day Public Review and Comment period is being held from October 22 through November 20 and will provide an opportunity for input on proposed uses of Innovations funds.

In order to provide input please respond by **5:00pm on Thursday, November 20, 2014** by directing your feedback via email, phone or mail to:

Karen Klatt, MEd
MHSA Coordinator
City of Berkeley Mental Health
3282 Adeline St.
Berkeley, CA 94704
(510) 981-7644 - Ph.
(510) 981-5255 - Fax
KKlatt@ci.berkeley.ca.us

**MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (MHSA)
INNOVATIONS (INN)
DRAFT PLAN AMENDMENT**

The City of Berkeley is proposing to amend the current Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Innovations (INN) Plan in order to allocate \$44,500 of unspent funds to retain two consultants who will conduct part of the state required work under this funding component. It is envisioned that each consultant will be retained on a short term basis (approximately four to nine months), and Berkeley Mental Health (BMH) MHSA staff will monitor and provide oversight of the work.

BACKGROUND

Enacted by voters on November 2, 2004, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) is Proposition 63 that places a 1% tax on every dollar of personal income over \$1 million. MHSA revenues are allocated to mental health jurisdictions across the state for the purposes of transforming and expanding the public mental health system by helping systems become more integrated, culturally competent, consumer and family member driven, and wellness and recovery oriented. Through five funding components, MHSA is designed to create the capacity for a broad continuum of prevention, early intervention and treatment services along with the necessary infrastructure, technology, and training elements to support effective mental health system transformation.

One of the five funding components of MHSA is Innovations (INN). The purpose of INN is to implement short-term pilot projects that contribute to new learning in the Mental Health field. These funds provide the opportunity to pilot test creative strategies that can inform future practices in communities/or mental health settings. INN projects can target any population and any aspect of the mental health system as long as the strategies or approaches that are being implemented address at least one of the following areas:

- Increase access to mental health services
- Increase access to mental health services for underserved groups
- Increase the quality of mental health services, including better outcomes
- Promote interagency collaboration

INN projects must also either: introduce new mental health practices or approaches that have never been done before; or make changes to existing mental health practices/approaches, including adapting them to a new setting or community; or introduce a new promising community-driven practice/approach that has been successful in non-mental health contexts or settings. Mental Health jurisdictions are required to report on the results of strategies and projects that were implemented through this funding component.

As with all MHSA components, INN funds are made available through an approved INN Plan which includes the following required steps: conducting a planning process informed by community stakeholders, plan development, a 30-Day Public Review, a Public Hearing, and obtaining approvals by the local City Council and the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC).

The City of Berkeley's initial INN Plan was approved in February 2012, following a four month community planning process. Per the initial approved INN Plan and subsequent Annual Updates, the following seven projects have been implemented under this funding component through June 30, 2015: A Community Empowerment Project for African Americans; Services and supports for Ex-offenders re-entering the community, Veterans returning home from being deployed or at war, and their families; Cultural Wellness strategies for Asian Pacific Islanders; a Holistic Health care project for Transition Age Youth (TAY); Technology Support Groups for senior citizens; Nutrition, Healthy Meal Preparation, and Exercise classes for Board and Care residents; and Mental Health services and supports for LGBTQI located in community agencies. All projects are implemented through community partners. For more information on the City of Berkeley's INN Plan and Annual Updates, access the Berkeley Mental Health MHSA webpage at: <http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=15648>

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Due to limited BMH MHSA staffing capacity, the City of Berkeley is proposing to amend the current Innovation Plan to allocate \$44,500 of unspent INN funds to hire two consultants to assist with some of the INN components State required work. The amendment proposes to allocate \$22,000 for an Evaluation Consultant who will evaluate and report on the results of the currently funded INN projects; and \$22,500 for a Planning Consultant, who will facilitate the State required community planning process around strategies and projects to be implemented through the next round of INN funds.

Retaining consultants for this time limited required work will be much less costly than adding additional staff, enabling the City of Berkeley to have more funds to expend on new INN pilot projects, strategies and services. It is envisioned that each consultant will work in collaboration with the MHSA Advisory Committee (the City of Berkeley's MHSA Oversight Board).

COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS

The proposal to retain consultants and funding amounts were vetted through the MHSA Advisory Committee, who by a majority vote elected to move forward with this INN Amendment. The MHSA INN Plan Amendment is currently undergoing a 30-Day Public Review and comment period from Wednesday, October 22nd through Thursday, November 20th.

As part of the Public Review, the MHSA INN Plan Amendment has been posted on the Berkeley Mental Health (BMH) MHSA website, and is available for reviewing in hard copy format at the downtown Public Library at 2090 Kittredge Street. An announcement of the 30-Day Public Review has been issued through a Press Release and mailed and/or emailed to community stakeholders. Substantive comments received during the review and comment period will be added to the MHSA INN Plan Amendment following the 30-Day Public Review.