

October 26, 2011

Dear County Director and MHSa Housing Coordinator:

The California Institute for Mental Health (CiMH) is happy to announce that training and technical assistance for the Mental Health Services Act (MHSa) Housing Program is now available at no cost to counties, through a contract with the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) for the period of October 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. This technical assistance is intended to help counties build capacity for development and/or service planning, to support the creation of MHSa Housing Program applications, and to learn about successful practices in developing and operating permanent supportive housing for special needs populations. This work is supported by the California Department of Mental Health's MHSa funds.

Both CSH and CiMH have discussed the critical and ongoing housing TA needs with counties over the past quarter. As a result of these conversations, our contract with CSH focuses on project assistance to specific counties to address critical needs identified by many counties. Attached to this letter you will find an introduction from CSH with more information about how to access this TA.

In addition to the project-based TA, CSH will also provide one housing coordination TA call per quarter. Through these calls, CSH and CiMH will explore bringing information forward that – given the realignment of services to counties – may also impact county housing plans, in addition to learning about the basics of supportive housing development, service planning and operations.

We look forward to working with you. Please feel free to contact Donna Matthews, who will oversee the MHSa Housing Program at CiMH, if you have questions about the MHSa Housing Program technical assistance. Ms. Matthews may be reached at dmatthews@cihm.org or (916) 556-3480, x 153.

Sincerely,



Doretha Williams-Flournoy, MS, Deputy Director



Donna Matthews, MSW, Associate 2