

Serving Transition Age Youth



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What is the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)?

In 2004, California voters resoundingly passed the Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63) to address the dire need to expand mental health services. Using MHSA funds, counties and community providers deliver mental health services in community settings and save taxpayer dollars by keeping people out of costly hospitals, jails, and institutions.

MHSA Serves All Ages, Including Transition Age Youth

“Transition Age Youth” are youth ages 14-25 who may be positioned between services targeted toward child and adult mental health services. The TAY population with serious mental illness in California includes youth who are homeless, unemployed, dropping out of high school, and/or suffering from substance abuse. Former foster youth are particularly at risk, with as many as 60% unemployed at age 19, and 25%-35% incarcerated at some point after leaving foster care. Each county is using MHSA funds to provide services specifically targeted to TAY that address their unique needs.

Providing Resources and Housing

San Bernardino County's One-Stop Center

- San Bernardino County partners with community organizations to assist youth in becoming independent.
- At 4 one-stop centers, a number of county agencies offer services, including Behavioral Health, Probation, Children's Services, and Public Health.
- These 4 drop-in centers are 2008 National Association of Counties (NACO) Award Winners.

Alameda County's Housing Opportunities

- A rental subsidy or master leasing agreement is provided to transition age youth participating in the county's Full Service Partnership program.
- The county worked with a housing provider to obtain federal HUD funding for additional permanent housing subsidies for transition age youth with a mental illness.
- Fred Finch Youth Center in Alameda County is developing 15 units of permanent supportive housing for transition age youth with mental illness.

Keeping Youth out of the Juvenile Justice System

Stanislaus County's Teaching Prosocial Skills Program

- This program assists young people ages 13-18 in their transition from the criminal justice system into adulthood and the community.
- The program includes bilingual behavioral health specialists who serve as case managers.
- The program includes a 24/7 crisis line.
- A “Teaching Prosocial Skills” group, which is an evidence-based program, uses an aggression reduction training curriculum in classes offered twice a week for 10 weeks.

Sacramento County's Juvenile Justice Diversion and Treatment Program

- Serves both pre-adjudicated and adjudicated youth and their families who have been referred voluntarily from the juvenile justice system.
- Youth ages 13 to 17 are targeted, and can continue to be served until their 26th birthday.
- Services revolve around a comprehensive evidence-based practice, which encourages youth to develop their emotional and conflict resolution skills in a sustainable, nonviolent way.

Mental Health Services Act
CHANGING LIVES. INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES.

To learn more, visit
www.cmhda.org.