<u>Innovation Regulations Quick Guide</u>

<u>Definition of an Innovation Project:</u>
A project that <u>contributes to learning</u> rather than a primary focus on providing a service. Innovation projects are an opportunity to try out new approaches that can inform current and future practices/approaches. By their very nature, not all innovation projects will be successful.

<u>Innovation projects must have a primary purpose:</u>
The County shall select one of the following as its primary purpose for developing and evaluating the new or changed mental health practice

- ☐ *Increase access to mental health services to underserved groups*
- ☐ *Increase the quality of mental health services, including measurable outcomes*
- ☐ *Promote interagency and community collaboration related to mental health services or supports or outcomes*
- ☐ *Increase access to mental health services*

<u>Innovation projects must contribute to learning in one of the following ways:</u>
- ☐ *Introduces new mental health practices/approaches including prevention and early intervention that have never existed before* **or**
- ☐ *Makes a change to an existing mental health practice/approach, including adaptation for a new setting or community* **or**
- ☐ *Introduces a new application to the mental health system of a promising community-driven practice/approach or a practice/approach that has been successful in non-mental health contexts or settings*

<u>Examples of Projects:</u>

- *Administrative/governance/ organizational practices, processes or procedures*
- *Advocacy*
- *Education and training for service providers (including non-traditional mental health practitioners)*

- *Outreach, capacity building and community development*
- *Planning*
- *Policy and system development*
- *Prevention, early intervention*
- *Public education efforts*
- *Research*
- *Services and/or treatment interventions*

General Innovation Information

*All Innovation projects shall embody the following standards:
**General Standards of the Mental Health Services Act:**

1. *Community Collaboration*
2. *Cultural Competence*
3. *Client Driven Mental Health System*
4. *Family Driven Mental Health System*
5. *Wellness, Recovery and Resilience Focus*
6. *Integrated Service Experience*

• Projects cannot exceed 5 years from start of implementation
• Regional collaboration is encouraged

Definition of Underserved:

- *Clients of any age who have been diagnosed with a serious mental illness and/or serious emotional disturbance and are receiving some services, but are not provided the necessary or appropriate opportunities to support their recovery, wellness and/or resilience.*
- *Clients whose family members are not receiving sufficient services to support the client's recovery, wellness and/or resilience.*
- *Clients at risk of homelessness, institutionalization, incarceration, out-of home placement or other serious consequences.*
- *Members of ethnic/racial, cultural, and linguistic populations that do not have access to mental health programs due to barriers such as poor identification of their mental health needs, poor engagement and outreach, limited language access, and lack of culturally competent services.*
- *Those in rural areas, Native American rancherias and/or reservations who are not receiving sufficient services.*

Innovation Project Flow Chart
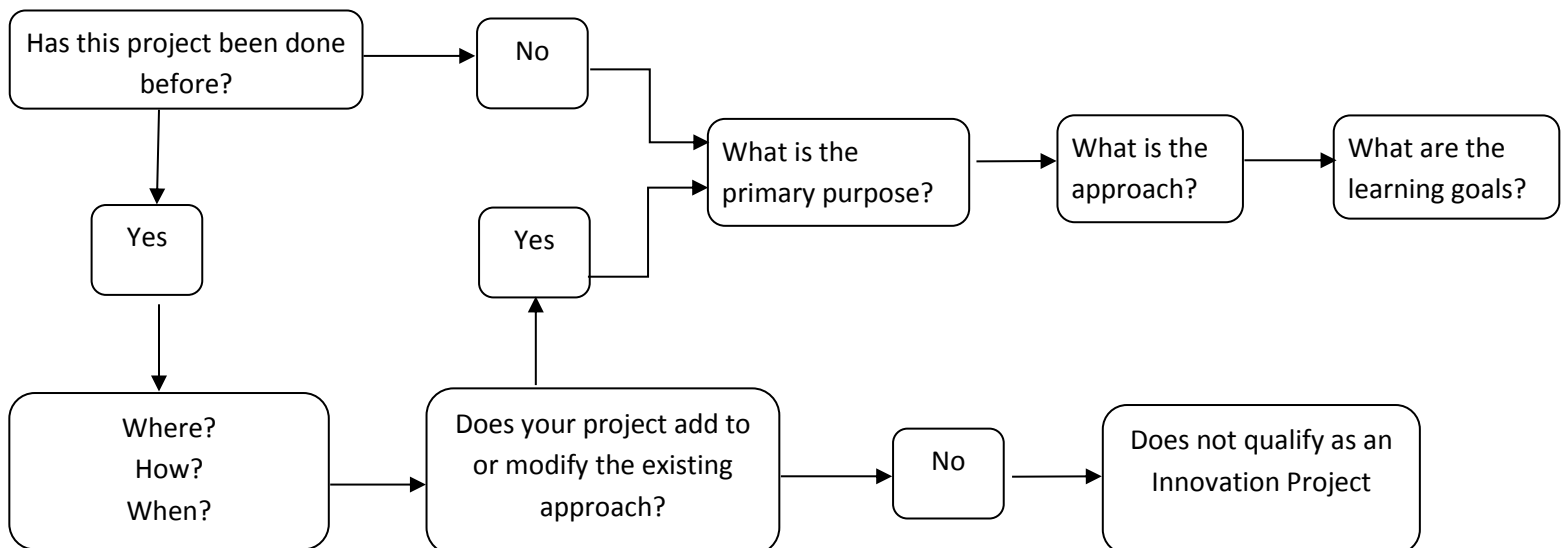
<u>**INNOVATION PROJECT PLAN Worksheet**</u>

1) Select one of the following as the primary purpose of the project:
- ☐ Increase access to mental health services to underserved groups
- ☐ Increase the quality of mental health services, including measurable outcomes
- ☐ Promote interagency collaboration related to mental health services, supports, or outcomes
- ☐ Increase access to mental health services

2) Identify which of the three approaches the project will implement:
- ☐ Introduces a new mental health practice or approach.
- ☐ Makes a change to an existing mental health practice that has not yet been demonstrated to be effective, including, but not limited to, adaptation for a new setting, population or community.
- ☐ Introduces a new application to the mental health system of a promising community-driven practice or an approach that has been successful in a non-mental health context or setting.

3) Primary Problem: What primary problem or challenge are you trying to address with this Innovation project?
Provide a brief narrative summary of the challenge or problem identified and why it is important to solve for your community.

4) What has been done elsewhere to address this primary problem?

5) The Proposed Project: Provide a brief overview description of the proposed project.

6) Who is the target population (age, demographic, etc.)?

7) What makes this project innovative?
Describe the key elements or approach(es) that will be **new**, **changed**, or **adapted** in your project (potentially including project development, implementation or evaluation). What distinguishes your project from similar projects that were already tested or implemented?

8) Learning Goals
What do you want to learn or better understand as a result of the Innovation Project? Why are these goals prioritized?

How can learning from this Innovation project enhance our mental health system as a whole?

9) Additional Information