September 4, 2019

Fiscal Year 2019-20 Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Update Mid-Year Adjustment Proposed Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Funding

The Department is proposing the use of approximately $5,661,000 of MHSA PEI funding for the purpose of enhancing the My Health LA Program with Mental Health Services, namely Prevention Services that will reduce risk factors for developing potentially serious mental illness, as well as help build protective factors.

This request is in keeping with the Board Motion dated November 20, 2018, entitled “Enhancing the My Health LA Program” in which the Board instructs the Director of Mental Health to report back with funding recommendations to support on-site mental health services in a primary care setting. On April 22, 2019 in a response back to the Board, DMH recommendations included the following efforts, “DMH proposes to support the provisions of prevention and prolonged engagement services”. Additionally, “DMH will accomplish this through the creation of a supplemental behavioral health capitated rate for uninsured clients.”

It was further noted in DMH’s response, that such Prevention Services “can include”, but not be limited to Mental Health Screening, Psychoeducation, Healthy Coping Skills, Resiliency Development, Mitigation of the Impact of Trauma, and Emotional Wellbeing. These services are in keeping with the California Code of Regulations, Division 1, Chapter 14, MHSA, Article 7, Prevention and Early Intervention, Section 3720, Prevention Program, whereby it cites that a Prevention Program is aimed at addressing “risk factors”, and developing, enriching and/or refining “protective factors”, some of which may include such topics as “ongoing stress, family conflict, social inequality, prolonged isolation, and/or traumatic loss”.
