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UC Berkeley Study Reports Proposition 63 Programs Have Had Significant Positive Outcomes for Mental Health Clients

On June 24th, at its monthly meeting in Sacramento, the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) received a UC Berkeley study which contained evidence of success for Proposition 63, known as the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA).

The UC Berkeley study by the Nicholas C. Petris Center is called, “Evidence On The Effectiveness Of Full Service Partnership Programs In California's Public Mental Health System.” Full service partnerships (FSPs) are funded by the Mental Health Services Act and offer a full range of “whatever it takes” services such as job training, housing, and life skills training. These FSP services are provided by all 58 counties to over 25,000 consumers of public mental health services. All MHSA programs have served over 400,000 Californians.

The report on FSPs concludes in part, “The Mental Health Services Act was intended to move mental health care services toward a recovery model and has been highly successful. Full Service Partnerships improve housing, employment, and education outcomes as well as decrease arrests and mental health-related emergency room use.”

After one year in an FSP program:
- Homelessness is reduced by 100%.
- Mental health-related emergency services are reduced by 67%.
- Employment is increased by 25%.
- Clients are 30% more likely to start an educational program.
- Arrests are reduced by 56%.
- 30% receive better outcomes of services than clients in usual care.
- Independent living is increased by 20%.

The Petris Center report also concludes, “Full Service Partnerships increase functioning, outcomes of services, and general satisfaction compared to usual care, and these improvements are large.”

MHSOAC Chair Andrew Poat said, “The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission is very excited that Proposition 63 programs are bringing about positive changes in the lives of California’s neediest citizens.” “These numbers show positive results for mental health clients’ recovery and taxpayers' investment in the Full Service Partnership programs,” said Poat. The Petris Center Report can be viewed in its entirety at: http://www.dmh.ca.gov/Prop_63/MHSA/Publications/default.asp#StudiesReportsSummariesFS