November 21, 2012

All County Mental Health Directors
All County MHSA Coordinators

Dear County Director or MHSA Coordinator,

This letter has attached instructions for what is to be included in the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) fiscal year (FY) 2013-14 Annual Update, which are to be submitted to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) within 30 days of adoption by your Board of Supervisors.

The Commissioners strongly believe that a robust, meaningful stakeholder process is the key to the success of the MHSA. These instructions have in one place what statute and regulations require in a stakeholder process for Annual Updates, as well as specifying what should be included in an update beyond the stakeholder process. As a reminder, regulations governing the MHSA continue to be in effect. Please consider these instructions the statutory minimum. A county always retains the right to showcase their programs by including more than the statutory minimum in whatever way it chooses, including their stakeholder process and Annual Update.

The Commissioners continue to appreciate how you strive to implement the letter and spirit of the MHSA. It is through your continued dedication to the MHSA’s values that the Act succeeds and those living with serious mental illness are served according to its intent.

If you have any questions about these instructions, please feel free to email us at mhsoac@mhsoac.ca.gov.

Best regards,

SHERRI GAUGER
Executive Director
Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission