

EXHIBIT D

Innovation Work Plan Description (For Posting on DMH Website)

County Name	Annual Number of Clients to Be Served (If Applicable)
<u>Merced County</u>	<u>20</u> Total
Work Plan Name	
<u>Strengthening Families-Behavioral Health Court Expansion</u>	

Population to Be Served (if applicable):

The population to be served is youth age 12 to age 17 who are youth of the Juvenile Court who live in Merced County with a mental health issue or at risk of a mental health issue. The youth can have both misdemeanors and felonies on their record.

Project Description (suggested length - one-half page): Provide a concise overall description of the proposed Innovation.

The Strengthening Families Behavioral Health Court Project Expansion will be an adopted program from the ideal of drug courts, domestic violence courts and community courts. It will contribute to learning because it will be an adopted program to serve the needs of Merced County. It will test out the benefits of developing a Learning Model for Behavioral Health Team, families and youth. By seeking to address the underlying problems that contribute to criminal behavior and reduce the overrepresentation of people with mental health issues in the criminal justice system. The program will provide intensive case management for up to 20 youth who are diagnosed with a mental health disorder or at risk of a mental health disorder. The project will infuse the critical transformational elements of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) by adopting a cultural wraparound model of wellness, recovery and resilience where families are viewed as the experts, trained as partners and viewed as having strength and resources. The youth and their families will participate in a structured program designed by the youth and families, Behavioral Health Team and an expert trainer in Strengthening Families. The program will be developed to include individual counseling, group counseling, family counseling, regular meetings, court appearances and drug screenings. The participant of the program will learn cognitive behavioral techniques and narrative therapy techniques. Narrative therapy techniques hold up the story as the basic unit of experience. The stories guide how people act, think, feel, and make sense of new experience. Stories organize the information from a person's life. Narrative therapy focuses on how these important stories can get written and rewritten. Narrative therapy provides a means to refocus the lens on this camera and help

reshape a person's stories and life. The program will be implemented in several phases over a timeframe of 9 to 12 months. During this timeframe the collaborative team which includes the youth, their family, Behavioral Health Team will receive ongoing training in the areas of developmental milestones, youth development, mental wellness and recovery, and the impact of cultural influence on improving the quality of life.