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MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT OPENS PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON MHSA PEI PLAN

MERCED – The Merced County Department of Mental Health (MCDMH) has opened a 30-day public viewing and comment period for its current *Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI)* component of the three-year program and expenditure plan request. At the close of this public comment period, the Merced County Mental Health Advisory Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 2, 2008 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the conference room at its Merced County, Department of Mental Health Administration Office, located at 3090 M Street in Merced. Interpretative assistance will be available to Spanish and Hmong-speaking residents in attendance at the public hearing.

The PEI plan details services and supports for children, transitional age youth, adults and older adults that will reduce risk factors and stressors that can lead to an initial onset of a mental health problem or prevent a mental health problem from getting worse. The prevention element is also intended to promote, support the well-being, and reduce the suffering of “at-risk” individuals who are experiencing challenging life circumstances. The fundamental concepts inherent in the PEI plan address community collaboration, cultural and linguistic competence, client/family-driven mental health system, wellness focus (which includes concepts of recovery and resilience) and integrated services and natural delivery sites such as schools and health clinics.

The plans will be posted on the Merced County Department of Mental Health website <http://www.co.merced.ca.us/mentalhealth/index.html#PEIPlan>. Residents can request an electronic version of the documents by emailing mhsa@co.merced.ca.us. The public can also request a hard copy of the documents by contacting the Mental Health Department at (209) 381-6800 or toll free at 1-866-626-6472. The following staff will be on hand to accept requests:

English speaking residents	Josette Torres
Spanish speaking residents	Iris Mojica de Tatum
Hmong speaking residents	Blong Lee

To provide input, recommendations and comments, please call 1-866-626-6472 or email your comments to mhsa@co.merced.ca.us.

