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MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT OPENS PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON MHSA CSS 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) Community Services and Supports (CSS)* 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 CSS plan details service delivery systems for mental health services and support for children, youth, transitional-age youth, adults and older adults. The fundamental concepts inherent in the CSS 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.

The plan will be posted on the Merced County Department of Mental Health website <http://www.co.merced.ca.us/mentalhealth/mhsa.html#mhsapupdate>. 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.

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For more information regarding Merced County, please visit our website at www.co.merced.ca.us