



County Name

Merced County

Work Plan Title:

Wellness Center

Population to Be Served

Priority Population: Youth, Adult, and Older Adults with serious emotional disturbance and severe mental illness. The goal for 2009 is a total unduplicated count of 850. The Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Wellness Center will serve 115 Youth. The combined unduplicated count for the Adult Wellness Centers is 735. This includes 720 Adults and 15 Older Adults.

Work Plan Description

Merced County Department of Mental Health (MCDMH) will operate three (3) Wellness Centers in 2009. These include the current, and highly successful, Adult Wellness Center in Merced, the newly established TAY Wellness Center in the City of Merced and the Wellness Center on the west side of the County in the City of Los Banos. The TAY Wellness Center is scheduled to open February 2009. The Los Banos Wellness Center will be at a new location by the end of the 2009 calendar year. The Los Banos Wellness Center will increase from an approximate 1,000 square foot area to 4,000 square feet Wellness Center.

The Wellness Centers are designed to infuse the system with the philosophy and principles of recovery. They are available to all clients as well as unserved and underserved individuals seeking to engage in services. The Centers provide a myriad of client-driven services that include but are not limited to housing, socialization, vocational, educational assistance, as well as a focus on social relationships and community integration activities. The Wellness Centers are multicultural and support welcoming environments. All members, inclusive of staff and volunteers, are trained in client related culture, sexual orientation, and gender issues. Members are trained, supported and exposed to those factors to create an atmosphere that celebrates and promotes diversity.

The goals include, but are not limited to, providing a place where clients support and assist while receiving services to maintain their current level of care in the community. Clients are encouraged to collaborate with each other in achieving community integration, wellness, and meaningful social connections.

The Merced and Los Banos Adult Wellness Centers have proven to be enormously successful, recovery-based programs throughout the Mental Health community. As a result of the success of the Adult Wellness Centers, client culture has been transformed significantly with client empowerment and choices impacting service delivery and client input driven decision. Clients vote on proposals, create work plans for change, present letters of request to the Mental Health Director and recognize their power within the organization impacting policy and procedures. The consumers participating in the Wellness Centers have expressed preferences for location of Wellness Centers, services, activities, groups, and on site access to staff. Cross-cultural activities are client-driven. The Caucasian, African American, Southeast Asian and Hispanic/Latino groups in the Merced Adult Wellness Centers develop and implement events in which all members participate together in client-driven, cross-cultural events, activities, and trainings. The uninhibited cross-cultural communication is a daily reminder of how engaged the clients are in their Wellness Center communities. The goal is to replicate the success of the Merced Adult Wellness Center in the Merced TAY Wellness Center.

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

Annual Number of Clients to Be Served: 850

Number of Clients By Funding Category

- X Full Service Partnerships
- X System Development
- Outreach & Engagement

PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION

Annual Number to Be Served

_____ Total

Number of Clients By Type of Prevention

- _____ Early Intervention
- _____ Indicated/Selected
- _____ Universal