



# COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

## Department of Mental Health

JERRY WENGERD, Director

November 9, 2005

Dear Stakeholder and Interested Community Member:

The Riverside County Department of Mental Health is completing its planning for the Community Services and Supports (CSS) component of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). We are pleased to announce that the CSS DRAFT Plan is now available for 30-day public review.

The CSS component is the second of six to be released by the State Department of Mental Health and represents \$16.7 million. These CSS services and supports are designed to enhance mental health services for children and youth with serious emotional disturbances and for transition age youth, adults, and older adults with serious mental illness.

The CSS DRAFT Plan is the result of a broad planning process that included a review of the strengths and weaknesses of the current system, identification of the community issues, needs and priority populations plus discussion of proposed strategies to address those needs and populations. This review helped to identify an overall vision for transformation of the Mental Health System over the next three years. This vision is what drove the proposed services in the CSS DRAFT Plan. Age specific MHSA committees with community, agency, consumer and family representation determined the priorities for funding.

The goal is to transform the current system into one that is accessible to all, responsive to needs, supportive, actively involves consumers and family members, is collaborative, integrated, culturally competent, focused on resilience and recovery. This plan expands services for new populations and also expands the range and intensity of services available to ensure a recovery-based approach.

We invite you to review the draft of the CSS Plan over the next 30 days and provide us with your comments. The draft CSS Plan, Executive Summary and a CSS feedback form are available on the Department of Mental Health website at:

<http://mentalhealth.co.riverside.ca.us/mhsa.html>.

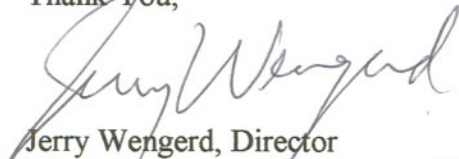
Hard copies will also be made available at designated sites, which will include outpatient clinics and community centers. A list of these sites will be available on the website or you can call (800) 479-4800. Comments may be made via email or mailed. In addition, there will be three Public

Hearings held by the Mental Health Board in order to receive comments from all interested persons. There will be one in each region and they will be held in early December. Check the website indicated above for times, dates and locations.

The comment period will end the day after the last Public Hearing. Riverside County Department of Mental Health staff will then finalize the plan and seek final approval from the Mental Health Board and the Board of Supervisors. The final CSS Plan will be submitted to the State Department of Mental Health after the Board of Supervisors review and approval. The State Department Mental Health then has up to three months to review and approve the plan; implementation can then begin immediately.

We look forward to your participation in assuring that the CSS Plan addresses unmet mental health needs in our community and moves us closer to transforming our mental health system.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Wengerd". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the printed name.

Jerry Wengerd, Director  
Riverside County Department of Mental Health