

RESOLVED, that the Orange County Mental Health Board recommends that the local mental health director include within the Orange County Mental Health Services Act Three-Year Plan FY 17/18 – 19/20 (“Plan”), the MHSA Community Opportunities Fund, a new funding mechanism to address mental health services needs brought forward by the public to the MHSA Steering Committee or Mental Health Board but not included in the Plan. Recommended for inclusion, prior to seeking approval for the Plan from the Orange County Board of Supervisors, as follows:

## **MHSA Community Opportunities Fund (MHSA COF)**

The MHSA Three Year Plan contains a broad range of programs and services to address the mental health needs of Orange County residents. These efforts have been informed by citizen and professional involvement at all stages of the planning process for the Plan. In some cases, specific community needs have been raised, but given the structural challenges of matching existing programs to emerging trends, may not have been included in the final Plan.

Additionally, during each fiscal year, unanticipated barriers may arise necessitating a delay or adjustment that results in expending less than what was budgeted for one or more programs in the Plan.

The MHSA COF provides a mechanism for the consideration of additional community-based programs and initiatives throughout the year that would be funded by otherwise unutilized budgeted amounts in the Plan. Through an RFA selection process, research driven proposals from community-based organizations would be considered for funding. Organizations who currently do not have direct MHSA funded contracts with HCA or that have budgets equal to or less than \$3,000,000 per year would be eligible to apply. During the first year, the total amount distributed through the MHSA COF is anticipated to be at least \$3,000,000. The Orange County Mental Health Board will be responsible for adopting policies concerning the management of the MHSA COF including recommending additional MHSA funding above Plan to the Orange County Board of Supervisors if such funding becomes available.