

## **Orange County Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Community Opportunities Fund**

On April 26, 2017, a Community Forum on mental health funding in Orange County took place bringing together community-based organizations that work closely with the underserved populations that MHSA is intended to support. Organizations represented included Children's Bureau, The Cambodian Family Community Center, Children's Cause Orange County, FACES, Inc., Human Options, State Council on Developmental Disabilities, The Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders, Regional Center of Orange County, Young Lives Redeemed, Orange County Community Foundation, BPSOS-CA, Help Me Grow, Institute for Healthcare Advancement (IHA), Blind Children's Learning Center, Resilience OC, and others. What most of these groups had in common is that they provide mental health services or supports, addressing critical gaps in our County's system of care, and they do not currently receive MHSA funding to support these efforts.

The Forum identified key areas of need within the community that our mental health system of care does not support or effectively integrate with. For example: 1) Mental health specialists who work with visually impaired children who currently do not have the capacity to address the mental health needs of this population, and who cannot refer to HCA therapists who do not have the appropriate training; 2) Domestic violence services providers who have had to put together their own clinical supports for medication management because they cannot find providers that work within their unique setting; and 3) an Orange County Cambodian-American community that continues to be frustrated in their efforts to establish their own program for secondary trauma.

There was widespread support in the group for encouraging changes in how MHSA funds are managed and made available to the community. Of the options reviewed, establishment of an MHSA Community Opportunity Fund seemed to be the most promising. Under this concept, MHSA funding currently being underutilized would be made available through an RFA process open to organizations with budgets under \$3 million per year or that currently do not have an MHSA funded contract. Funding would only be provided for research driven initiatives and projects that are able to demonstrate the need for resources in a specific community or multiple communities. This new funding mechanism would not take from existing MHSA funded programs but instead add the total amount of MHSA dollars provided to communities each year. As HCA continues to consolidate contracts with ever larger providers, a counterbalance is needed to provide for these specialized community-based projects and programs. Putting unspent resources into the community is more important than ever as Orange County faces the prospect of having to return the funds to the state as required under MHSA Fiscal Reversion.

Community members and leaders of community-based organizations are encouraged to attend the following meetings to share about existing needs for mental health services and to support the adoption of the MHSA Community Opportunities Fund:

Mental Health Board Meeting and MHSA Public Hearing  
May 9, 2017  
9:00 AM – 11:30 AM  
Norman P. Murray Community and Senior Center  
24932 Veterans Way  
Mission Viejo, CA 92692

May 4, 2017 - For additional information, please contact:  
Michael Arnot at [marnot@childrenscauseoc.org](mailto:marnot@childrenscauseoc.org) or 949-690-5274

Orange County Board of Supervisors Meeting (School Readiness Program)

May 23, 2017

9:30 AM

Board Hearing Room

Hall of Administration

333 W. Santa Ana Blvd.

10 Civic Center Plaza, 1st Floor

Santa Ana, CA 92701

Mental Health Board General Meeting

May 24, 2017

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Hall of Administration (Building 10)

Planning Commission Hearing Room

333 W. Santa Ana Blvd.

Santa Ana, CA 92701

Mental Health Board Study Committee Meeting

June 13, 2017

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Health Care Agency

405 W. 5th Street, 2nd Floor, Room #202

Santa Ana, CA 92701

Comments in support of adopting the MHSA Community Opportunities Fund can be sent to:

[mhsa@ochca.com](mailto:mhsa@ochca.com)

May 4, 2017 - For additional information, please contact:

Michael Arnot at [marnot@childrenscapeoc.org](mailto:marnot@childrenscapeoc.org) or 949-690-5274

# Mental Health Funding in Orange County

## Community Forum

**April 26, 2017**

**2:30 pm - 4:30 pm**

**OneOC Training Room**

**1901 E. 4th Street, Ste 100**

**Santa Ana, CA 92705**

*Photo by Kaitlin Washburn courtesy of Voice of OC*

**To Orange County community based organizations—**

**Please join us for a community discussion on issues faced by community based organizations in accessing mental health funding in Orange County to serve those who are most in need. Topics will include:** 1) A brief review of the Draft Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Three Year Plan for Orange County; 2) A brief presentation on Community Opportunity and MHSA; 3) Open discussion and input from forum participants; and 4) the HCA RFP Process.

**TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT: [marnot@childrenscauseoc.org](mailto:marnot@childrenscauseoc.org) or call 949-690-5274**



**CHILDREN'S CAUSE  
ORANGE COUNTY**



**children'sbureau**



**The Cambodian Family**

**Accelerating Nonprofit Success**

