

**September 9, 2014**

**Group #5 (Alicia): Focus on Adult Services**

There were 7 consumers/providers, 1 family member, and 1 county staff in this group.

**1. In looking at the key need and gap areas that have been identified so far, are there any, from your perspective, that are missing? If so, what are they?**

- More peer services, and compassion
- System needs to be more friendly
- Needs to be easier to access services
- More collaboration and quick and effective referrals
- Enhance information and availability
- Disseminate information besides email & technology
- Language thinks in layman terms so everyone can understand
- Other agencies (such as law enforcement) need to be informed about mental health issues
- Stigma, discrimination against homeless individuals, and persons with mental health issues
- Jails, lawyers, judges, and probation all need more information & training (about mental health issues)
- Staff need training about mental health needs (including about medications and behavior)
- Work and education incentives for peers
- Housing
- More opportunities for peers, providers, and family members to communicate
- Wellness education, life skills
- No peer or family staff at the County
- Speakers bureau (“shadow speakers”)

**2. Which need or gap areas are most important?**

- Housing; this is fundamental
- Thorough “assessments” of person (mental health, substance use, educational level, financial, legal, etc). Note: some people find the word “assessment” offensive because it implies a “one down” relationship between the provider and the person seeking services.
- Re-integration into the community (having other places to go besides MHCAN)
- Stigma
- Mental wellness

**3. Which need or gap areas should we focus on working on first?**

- Housing

- Wellness
- Instead of assessment... recognizing the person, communication, relationship.

**4. Are there specific need or gap areas that may be unique or different for South County.**

South County has a lot of potential. The gap is that there is not enough participation at Mariposa.

Also, there is a North and South County divide. There needs to be more interaction (between MHCAN and Mariposa, for example).