



County of Santa Cruz

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Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division

Press Release

Mental Health Services Act (Prop 63)

“Innovative Projects” Draft Plan

&

“Community Services and Supports and Prevention and Early Intervention”

FY 2009/10 Prudent Reserve Funding Request

Public Review 12/15/09 – 1/15/10

Date: December 11, 2009
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Santa Cruz County Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services announces the availability of the “Innovative Projects” draft plan and the Community Services and Supports and Prevention and Early Intervention FY 2009/10 Prudent Reserve Funding Request for public review between 12/15/09 and 1/15/10. The public is invited to review these documents at:

<http://www.santacruzhealth.org/prop63/index.htm> or may request a copy by calling 454-4498.

What is an Innovative Project?

An Innovative project is defined as one that contributes to learning rather than a primary focus on providing a service. Innovative Programs are available for a range of approaches, including, but not limited to:

- Introduction of a new mental health practice;
- Substantial change of an existing mental health practice, including significant adaptation for a new setting or community.
- New application to the mental health system of a promising community approach or an approach that has been successful in non-mental health contexts or settings.

What is Prudent Reserves?

The State Department of Mental Health has required that each county establish and maintain a prudent reserve for Community Services and Supports and Prevention and Early Intervention to ensure that, in years in which revenues for the MHS Fund are below recent averages, counties will be able to continue to serve the same number of children, adults, and seniors that it had been serving in the previous fiscal year.

Background: In November 2004, California voters passed Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), which gives money to counties to help people and families who have mental health needs. Santa Cruz County’s plan for these services went into effect in June 2006.