

**Mental Health Services Act Planning
Housing and Supports Committee**

March 3, 2005

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

COMMITTEE IDEAS	ADDRESS WHAT NEED?	SUPPORT WHICH AB2034 OUTCOME(S)	AB2034 BEST PRACTICE MODEL / STRATEGY	TARGET POPULATION	EXPAND OR NEW SERVICES?
SUPPORTIVE SERVICES					
1. Increase access to services in all geographic areas of the county, with particular emphasis on the most underserved areas (South County and the San Lorenzo Valley)	Regional gaps in services				
2. Create a primary mental health interface for property management to call and hold responsible for coordination	Lack of coordination and communication between coordinators and property managers				
3. Create peer support teams in North and South County, each with clinical supervision ➤ 8 to 10 trained Peer Counselors working hours that work for them	Insufficient funding for supportive services throughout the system				
4. Provide more support for those currently in housing, including: ➤ Socialization classes ➤ Transportation vouchers & support ➤ Emphasis on community integration ➤ 90-day plan/"welcome wagon" to provide sheets, food, etc. to ease/support transition	Need for step-down services for people moving into permanent housing/need for assistance with transition				
5. Lower caseloads to enable "housing first" model ➤ Increase coordinator involvement in clients' housing ➤ Assist with applications for Section 8, benefits, etc.	Help people get access to permanent housing				

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<p>6. Provide support for clients not in Mental Health housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increase follow-up & support to newly housed clients ➤ Offer support for meds-only or clients who have been closed from caseloads through Peer Support Team ➤ Provide financial or other incentive to complete W.R.A.P. plan ➤ Use trained peer counselors to assist clients who are currently well 	Prevent crises leading to loss of housing				
NEW HOUSING RESOURCES					
<p>7. Create “Rent Plus” program for all the teams: Redirect some funds currently in Flex Fund contract and augment to provide a consistent housing support program that would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Loan fund for security deposits ➤ Emergency rental subsidy with consistent guidelines ➤ Maintenance and cleaning funds and plan (Puentes cleaning crew contract for unit turn-over?) 	Enable people to get into housing when they are ready; share the risk with landlords				
<p><u>8.</u> Develop new housing with emphasis on single units. May be owned or leased (including master leased)</p>	Need for more housing stock in Santa Cruz County				
ADDITIONAL ITEMS SUGGESTED					
<p>9. Turn Willowbrook Board & Care into a facility for elderly persons with severe mental illness.</p>	Need for more residential beds for consumers over age 59				

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10. Move Paloma to Wheelock to add three beds of dual diagnosis treatment capacity to South County and free ten Shelter Plus Care subsidies for use in the wider community.	Fully utilize the housing resources that currently exist				
11. Recommendation for Opal Cliff and T-House?					