



Comprehensive Children's  
Mental Health

# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

---

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

## Memorandum

**To:** Community Based Organizations and Collaborative Partnerships  
**From:** Dane Cervine  
**Date:** 10/7/09  
**Re:** School-based Prevention and Early Intervention – MHSA funded program.

---

The Children's Mental Health Program (CMH) is seeking initial project concepts from Community Based Organizations (CBO) or collaborative efforts to provide School-based Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) services funded by the Mental Health Services Act. The proposed concepts should focus on impacting youth exhibiting the earliest stages of at-risk behavior, rather than traditional services geared toward those already experiencing significant and debilitating symptoms. Short-term treatment aimed at diverting children/youth from the need for more prolonged treatment is appropriate.

In the development of the PEI plan, stakeholders identified the need for early intervention with children and youth. Workgroups identified that many early signs of at-risk behavior or emerging mental illness are first noticed in the context of school. However, many youth exhibiting these symptoms are unable to receive mental health support until the behavior becomes more pronounced and significantly disrupts achieving appropriate developmental goals. This call for project concepts seeks to integrate established knowledge of prevention and early intervention with a school-based delivery model to identify youth in early stages of risk and to provide intervention that can keep them on a path of success.

Incorporating "lessons learned" from recent and current school-linked initiatives such as *Safe Schools, Healthy Students: the North Santa Cruz County School Mental Health Partnership*; and the *State Department of Mental Health's Early Mental Health Initiative (EMHI)* will strengthen the project concept. CMH is interested in projects that demonstrate an ability to maximize and integrate with related prevention and early intervention programs and successful models (such as drug and alcohol prevention, child abuse prevention and health promotion).

The PEI Plan approved by the Board of Supervisors on September 29, 2009, funds a School-based Prevention and Early Intervention program to serve children from stressed families, trauma-exposed individuals, and those experiencing the onset of serious mental illness. By focusing on these priority populations, these services will reach children and youth at risk for

school failure, and/or at risk of juvenile justice involvement. A goal of the proposed services is to expand and help integrate various school-based, school-linked prevention and early intervention efforts.

Concepts should identify how services will effectively reach-out and engage Latino students/families, as well as LGBT students. Project concepts need to include a description of the method of service delivery at school campuses, as well as a signed letter of willingness to participate from the target school or school district.

The Children's Mental Health Program will use the initial project concepts to help define the program/s to be implemented. Organizations or partnerships that submit concepts meeting the desired guidelines will be asked to submit formal proposals to implement prevention and early intervention services to youth throughout Santa Cruz County. In order to insure countywide coverage, CMH may divide the funds to support multiple projects.

Initial MHSA funding provides \$128,334 for the fiscal year 2009-10, which includes start-up costs (assuming start date of December 1, 2009). Ideal applicants will demonstrate the ability to leverage and maximize relevant funding streams in order to increase and better integrate related efforts (e.g. Drug Medi-Cal, EPSDT, grants or educations funds). Funds will be awarded through June 2010, after which time the program/s will be reviewed for success and modification. Continuation of funding up to \$200,000 may be awarded for fiscal year 2010-2011.

**Please direct your questions to Dane Cervine (831) 454-4910.**

**Submit project concepts no later than November 6, 2009 by 5:00 p.m.** to the following address:

Children's Mental Health  
1400 Emeline Ave., Building K  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
Attention: Dane Cervine

The entire PEI plan can be viewed at the following web site:  
[http://www.santacruzhealth.org/prop63/PDFs/PEI\\_PLAN.pdf](http://www.santacruzhealth.org/prop63/PDFs/PEI_PLAN.pdf)