**City of Berkeley**

**Mental Health Services Act Funds**

This document provides background information on the State of California Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds. MHSA is a funding stream that the City of Berkeley utilizes to provide a wide range of mental health services. The purpose of the document is to provide an orientation to the funds that will enable the community to provide input about how to utilize the funds most effectively to improve mental health services for the residents of Berkeley and Albany.

California voters passed Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), in November 2004, to expand and transform the public mental health system. This legislation places a 1% tax on personal incomes above $1 million dollars. Funds are deposited into the MHSA State Treasury Fund and allocations per each mental health jurisdiction are determined based on the total population in a given area. MHSA provides funding in the following categories:

* Community Services & Supports (CSS): Primarily provides treatment services and supports for Severely Mentally Ill Adults and Seriously Emotionally Disturbed Children.
* Prevention & Early Intervention (PEI): For strategies to recognize early signs of mental illness and to improve early access to services and programs, including the reduction of stigma and discrimination and for strategies to prevent mental illness from becoming severe and disabling.
* Innovations (INN): For short-term pilot projects designed to increase new learning in the mental health field.
* Workforce, Education & Training (WET): Primarily for strategies to identify and remedy mental health occupational shortages, promote cultural competency and the employment of mental health consumers and family members in the workplace.
* Capital Facilities and Technological Needs (CFTN): For capital projects on owned buildings and on mental health technology projects.

The Community Services & Supports, Prevention & Early Intervention, and Innovation funding components are allocated annually and may be spent over a three-year time period. Workforce, Education & Training and Capital Facilities and Technological Needs funds had initial expenditure time periods of 10 years each.

In order to access MHSA funds, MHSA legislation requires mental health jurisdictions to create and obtain local approval on a stakeholder informed Three Year Program and Expenditure Plan that outlines how funds will be utilized. Annual Updates on the Three Year Plan are also required. Development of a MHSA Plan includes: community program planning with the involvement of area stakeholders, writing a draft plan, initiating a 30-day public review, conducting a public hearing at the Mental Health Commission meeting, and obtaining approval on the plan from City Council.