

Guidelines for the Development of the California Strategic Plan on Reducing Mental Health Stigma & Discrimination

The Plan is envisioned to be:

- *A ten-year strategic plan for all of California to guide actions, activities and investments associated with mental health-related stigma and discrimination reduction.*
- *The Plan is not just for MHSA, DMH or the mental health system, but rather for all institutions, organizations and other entities in the public, private and non-profit sectors – as well as individuals dedicated to the complete social inclusion of individuals living with mental illness.*
- *A roadmap or blueprint that offers recommended strategies and directions, including suggested statewide and local actions, based on research, evidence, and lived experience.*
- *A guidance and resource document for policy makers, program managers, providers and funders in various sectors without prescribing new laws, funding or fixed timetables.*

The Plan should also:

- *Reflect the guiding principles of the Mental Health Services Act including community collaboration; cultural competence; client-and family-driven; wellness, recovery and resilience focused; and integrated service experiences for clients and their families.*
- *Focus on both the reduction of stigma and discrimination.*
- *Build upon strengths and opportunities, identify ways to increase the impacts and outcomes through partnerships and the leveraging of efforts and investments, and design actions that simultaneously meet and reinforce multiple goals.*
- *Be completed by the Advisory Committee by early March 2009.*

The Development and Approval of the Plan:

- *Per the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC), the California Strategic Plan on Reducing Mental Health Stigma and Discrimination is a document of the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and it is the Department's responsibility to prepare. The Advisory Committee, established by DMH, is to provide advice to DMH in fulfilling this responsibility. The Department will submit the Plan to the MHSOAC for approval.*