CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
Mental Health

March 28, 2007

DMH INFORMATION NOTICE NO.: 07-04

TO: LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS
                LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM CHIEFS
                LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATORS
                COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
                CHAIRPERSONS, LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH BOARDS

SUBJECT: MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT COMMUNITY SERVICES
                AND SUPPORT HOUSING EXPENDITURE CHANGE

REFERENCE: IMPLEMENTATION OF MHSA, WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS
                CODE (WIC) SECTIONS 5847, 5898

The purpose of this Department of Mental Health (DMH) Information Notice is to transmit a change in proposed allowable expenditures under the Community Services and Support (CSS) component of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) for housing.

The Department of Mental Health recognizes that the provision of housing for clients with severe mental illness is an integral service that is vital to the wellness and recovery of our clients. As a result, DMH is in the process of developing regulations that categorize purchasing, developing, constructing, or rehabilitating structures to house clients with severe mental illness as a service and appropriate to be funded by CSS funds, rather than by Capital Facilities funds. DMH is in the process of drafting regulations for the use of Capital Facilities funds to purchase, construct, and/or rehabilitate facilities that provide services and/or treatment for those with severe mental illness, or to provide administrative support to MHSA funded programs or facilities.

The Department of Mental Health continues to communicate with the California Mental Health Directors' Association, California Housing Finance Administration, and to abide by the MHSA stakeholder process in the development of this policy. DMH will clarify the issues related to this change and plans release of information in anticipation of regulations concerning the revised CSS funded expenditures to the counties this summer. Drafts could be ready for stakeholder input as early as May, 2007.

Sincerely,

 Original signed by:

STEPHEN W. MAYBERG, Ph.D.
Director