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Founded by Pomona, Claremont, and La Verne in 1960

June 17, 2009

Dear Community Member:

We are writing to inform you about an upcoming Mental Health Services Act Stakeholder Process for the Tri-City area, and to ask you to consider applying to be a delegate and/or encouraging others to apply.

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) passed by California voters in November 2004 provides new funding for a broad array of mental health programs and services, especially for un-served and underserved populations. To access these funds, local mental health departments must develop and have approved by the state five different substantive plans. To develop each of the five MHSA plans, Tri-City must create planning processes that meaningfully involve people who receive or have received services, family members of people who have received services, community organizations that support people with mental health issues, and other community stakeholders.

Tri-City recently completed planning for the first of these plans, the Community Services and Supports (CSS) plan. This plan was just approved by the California Department of Mental Health and services will begin soon. The second plan Tri-City must develop is the Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) plan. This is the plan we are preparing for now.

While the Board of Tri-City Mental Health Center must ultimately approve any MHSA plan before it is submitted to the state, the Board plans to organize a delegates group to represent dozens of stakeholder groups across the three cities and Los Angeles County. The charge to this delegates group will be to oversee the development of the draft Prevention and Early Intervention plan. This will involve a series of meetings beginning in August 2009 through the spring of 2010. As we did for the CSS planning process, we have retained John G. Ott & Associates (now known as Luminescence Consulting) to help design and facilitate this planning process.

This delegates group will include: people who have received or are receiving services; family members and other caregivers who support people of various ages with mental health needs; community and peer providers; representatives from the three cities; representatives from law enforcement, health services, schools, and other related institutions; representatives from LA County Department of Mental Health and other County Departments who provide services in the three-city area; representatives from Tri-City staff, the Mental Health Commission, and the Governing Board; and others. Special efforts will be made to insure the representativeness of this group—e.g., of the three cities, of different age groups, of different ethnic groups—and the inclusiveness of this group—e.g., of underrepresented groups, of veterans, and other high-need constituencies.

If you are interested in serving as a delegate for this planning process, please complete and submit the attached application as an email attachment to rhundal@tricitymhs.org or by fax to 909-623-4073 no later than Friday, July 3, 2009.

Thanks very much for your support of people and families struggling with mental health issues, and for your interest in this planning process. We hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Paula Lantz, Board of Directors Chair
Tri-City Mental Health Center

Jesse Duff, Executive Director
Tri-City Mental Health Center