



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

DATE: July 20, 2016

MHSUDS INFORMATION NOTICE NO.: 16-034

TO: COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIRECTORS
COUNTY DRUG & ALCOHOL ADMINISTRATORS
COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AGENCIES
COALITION OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG ASSOCIATIONS
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF ALCOHOL & DRUG PROGRAM EXECUTIVES, INC.
CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

SUBJECT: Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Use of Funds for Crisis Services

The purpose of this Information Notice is to clarify that counties may use (MHSA) funds to provide crisis stabilization services to adults and older adults regardless of their voluntary or involuntary legal status.

Existing law permits counties to use MHSA funds to provide crisis stabilization services to clients on a voluntary or involuntary basis. (Welfare & Institutions Code (W&I), § 5801, subd. (b)(5); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 9, § 3400, subd. (b)(2); see also W&I §§ 5805, 5600.4, 5600.6, 5600.7.) Specifically, W&I Section 5801(b)(5) states that clients in an Adult and Older Adult System of Care program should volunteer for all treatment unless the client is a danger to self or others or grave disability requires temporary involuntary treatment. California Code of Regulations, title 9, Section 3400(b)(2) further states that no person shall be denied access to programs and services provided with MHSA funds, which includes Full Service Partnership and General System Development programs, based solely on their voluntary or involuntary status. These provisions allow counties to use MHSA funds to provide crisis stabilization services to clients on a voluntary or involuntary basis.

Should you have any questions, please contact Donna Ures at donna.ures@dhcs.ca.gov or (916) 324-0401.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Karen Baylor, Ph.D., LMFT, Deputy Director
Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder Services