



**Analysis of County Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)
Workforce Education and Training (WET) Programs
Request for Application (RFA) #15-6241**

**Questions and Answers from Mandatory Bidders' Conference
September 15, 2015**

Question 1: Does OSHPD have access to the County WET Plans and Annual Report Updates from 2008 to current time?

Answer: No. The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) does not have the reports, but would play a role in facilitating communication to assist in gathering the reports. It is ultimately the responsibility of the contractor to gather those reports from the counties.

Question 2: How does OSHPD plan to use the results from this research?

Answer: Although OSHPD administers its own statewide WET program and does not actively monitor the county programs, OSHPD would like to highlight the WET activities that have been conducted at the county level. This can serve many purposes by helping counties see what other counties are doing and potentially replicate best practices. This information can also help other stakeholders see the value of different activities that are being done via County MHSA WET funding.

Question 3: Some counties receive funding from OSHPD and they have their own funding. OSHPD receives reports for their state WET funded programs. Does this research cover OSHPD funded activities and/or only the county funded activities?

Answer: The research conducted will only analyze the MHSA WET county funded programs. It will not include the OSHPD administrated WET programs.

Question 4: Will the research include the Regional Partnership programs?

Answer: No. The Regional Partnership programs will not be included, just the individual county programs. The Regional Partnerships are funded through OSHPD WET.

Question 5: Research question two talks about assessing the impact and effectiveness of a minimum of five County MHSA WET programs and it defines financial incentives, training, and internships. Is that a minimum metric you want examined or can there be others.

Answer: It can be any County administrated program that meets the criteria identified on page 4 b.i. We identify these three examples, but it could include additional programs such as recruitment programs, retention programs, and professional development programs, among others.

Question 6: Has OSHPD done further research or activities associated with persons of lived experience in the Public Mental Health System (PMHS)?

Answer: OSHPD is currently in contract with University of California San Diego, Health Services Research Center partnered with Harder+Company Community Research to assess the current consumer, family member, and parent caregiver workforce. The assessment is on the workforce itself, the training organizations, and employers. Via this assessment OSHPD is gathering data on the demographics, employment practices, training and curricula requirement, among other things. This assessment is currently in process and depending on when this is finalized, findings can potentially be used to inform this research. For further information on the specific categories being assessed, please find the RFA at the following link:
<http://oshpd.ca.gov/hwdd/2015/WET/RFA-Comprehensive-Assesment-CFMPC.pdf>.

Question 7: Would OSHPD help with the selection of the five programs?

Answer: Yes, this is something OSHPD would approve as part of the deliverables. There is criteria in the RFA that the researcher would need to look at when identifying and then proposing the five programs. Programs that are being implemented across multiply counties, programs that have common or similar suspected outcomes and programs that are far enough in the implementation process that can be successfully evaluated. Ultimately OSHPD will engage with the contractor in the final selection of these five programs to evaluate.

Question 8: Do the counties know there is a pending evaluation?

Answer: Yes.

Question 9: What kind of feedback have you received, has it been positive?

Answer: It has been mixed, but Counties do recognize the need to highlight these activities across the state. There can be challenges in collecting information from all counties and the contractor will need to work through those challenges to collect as much data as possible. OSHPD continually communicates with Counties to consider their feedback when implementing RFAs.

Question 10: Is the current research that is being conducted for the consumer, family member, and parent/caregiver workforce also requiring an analysis of plans and annual updates submitted by the counties.

Answer: No. The research methodology for that contract is different and did not require analysis of county plans and updates. Please see the link in the answer to Question #6 for additional information on that RFA/contract.

Question 11: Has there been any research on this by the California State Auditor in terms of these programs and their expenditures and effectiveness? Is there an on-going audit right now?

Answer: There is no such research or audit that OSHPD is aware of that has researched and/or analyzed the County MHSA WET programs to the extent that this RFA intends to.