

WHAT ARE SYSTEMS OF CARE?

If you are investigating or reporting on Prop 63, if you serve in any capacity to implement Prop 63, please answer this question for yourself. SYSTEMS OF CARE are the core of Prop 63, targeted for 75% of funds and a product of years of development, evaluation, and acclaim. Code sections detail these services.

MHSA stipulates that programs within a Children's System of Care are accountable, developed in partnership with youth and families, culturally competent, and tailored to individual strengths and needs of each child and family. Systems of Care emphasize integrated, coordinated services within interagency networks for children and families. **MHSA code sections 5858.1 spells out services** for MHSA funds. And W&I code sections 5698-5699.5 elaborate upon Children's Systems of Care in public mental health.

W&I code sections on Adult and Older Adult Systems of Care likewise emphasize coordinated, comprehensive services, standards to assist adults and older adults with severe and persistent mental illness to live in the most independent, least restrictive housing feasible, and provisions for services to be client-directed and employ psychosocial, rehabilitation and recovery principles. Systems of Care should include tailored service plans, evaluation strategies and access to psychiatric and psychological services. **W&I code sections 5801, 5802, and 5806** are referenced for MHSA funding.

WHY AREN'T COUNTIES EXPANDING EXISTING SYSTEMS OF CARE?

For unstated reasons, the DMH created a different identity for Systems of Care to keep these programs separate from MHSA programs and DMH changed the name to "Community Services and Supports," a term never used in MHSA. Funding categories of "Full Service Partnerships, Outreach and Engagement, and System Development" also do not appear in MHSA law, but were invented by DMH and facilitate a two-tier system. Prop 63 was intended to fund SYSTEMS OF CARE, the service model first funded in 1989-90 pilot programs and extensively evaluated for a decade; then, further developed and proven to be an effective model in 2000's.

WHY IS MHSA REVENUE CREATING A TWO-TIER SYSTEM OF SERVICES?

Why do stakeholders believe MHSA is a separate, categorical program? Department of Mental Health Director Steve Mayberg answered this question in 2007 stating that "we" are serving the "most needy" first. While he claimed "stakeholders" influenced the decision, he ignored three DMH studies reporting chief stakeholder complaints as misuse of MHSA funds for a two-tier system. The comprehensive provisions of Systems of Care, had never been funded to serve more than 5-10 percent of consumers, and **Prop 63 is intended to move the entire system closer to meeting this effective, respectful, and cost-efficient standard of care.**

Following is a list of code sections if you are interested in understanding the comprehensive nature of programs already tested and proven—and if you are investigating the objectives behind DMH decisions to reject the proven model to begin anew with a blank slate to create 1,600 new programs—a costly, inefficient course.

SYSTEMS OF CARE CODES:

FIND THE CODE SECTION:

Google “california code sections, Click on “find california code” and then check the box for “Welfare and Institutions” codes and type in the code section you want to review. Some provisions are repetitive, they are not necessarily organized in a logical order, and it is possible that there are more references than those listed below.

Review Legislative References and History of Systems of Care:

Welfare and Institutions Codes:

5600.1 “the mission of California’s mental health system...

5600.2 “public mental health services shall include the following factors...Client centered...Systems of Care...Quality of Service...Cultural Competence...Community Support...Self Help...Education, etc

5600.3 Target Populations...**(included in Prop 63)**

5600.4 Services should be organized to provide an array of treatment options.....(a) through (k) list those options as developed through extensive stakeholder process, including Planning Council deliberations and proposed Master Plans.

5600.5 The minimum array of services for children are.....

5600.6 The minimum array of services for adults.....

5600.7 The minimum array of services for older adults

5698-5699.5 Principles of System of Care for Seriously Emotionally Disturbed Children and Youth

5801-5809 Systems Children and Adult **(5801, 5802, 5806 included in Prop 63)**

5850.-5851.5 **(included in Prop 63)**

5878.1, 5878.2, 5878.3 Children’s System

California has yet to meet its stated mission and provide the array of treatment options specified. Voters intended to fund progress toward these goals with Prop 63 revenue.

All of the above code sections were developed over a period of years with exhaustive public stakeholder input and evaluations.