



**County of Orange  
Health Care Agency**

**Behavioral Health Services  
Mental Health Services Act**

**Capital Facilities Project Proposal**

**Executive Summary**



## Executive Summary

### **Background**

Orange County has used Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds to develop services and programs that have moved our public mental health system toward the goals of wellness, recovery, resiliency, and cultural competence. Orange County has had an extensive MHSA stakeholder process that involved a diverse cross-section of the community in the process of transformation. The Orange County Health Care Agency (HCA) conducted numerous stakeholder meetings for our Three-Year Community Services and Supports (CSS) Plan, CSS Growth Funding Plan, Workforce Education and Training (WET) Plan, Capital Facilities and Technological Needs Component Proposal, and Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Plan. During these meetings, the need for a Crisis Residential Program, a Wellness/Peer Support Center, and an Education and Training Center was recognized.

Funds for Capital Facilities will allow Orange County to create an infrastructure dedicated to the mental health needs of consumers, increase the number of consumer-run facilities, and develop a community-based less restrictive setting that will reduce the need for hospitalization and incarceration. The funds will also provide facilities for much-needed programs that have been identified as priorities by Orange County stakeholders.

### **Project Proposal**

Architects, Alexander+Hibbs, AIA, Inc., were selected for this Capital Facilities project and will be developing a campus on an existing County-owned property at 401 S. Tustin Street, Orange. The campus will be developed with greenbelts, walkways, and outdoor activity areas. New construction will include surface parking, underground utilities, sidewalks, landscaping, landscape irrigation, fire lanes, recreation areas, shade shelters, area lighting, building security, signage, and perimeter walls. The following four buildings will be included at the site:

- A 9,250 square foot Crisis Residential Program to serve as an alternative to hospitalization for acute and chronic mentally ill persons. This would be a voluntary program offering services 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This facility would house 15 beds for both male and female adults and would be designed for short-term crisis intervention.
- A 7,600 square foot consumer-run Wellness/Peer Support Center to offer assistance with benefits, employment, socialization, and self-reliance. This would fill the gap in the service system by supporting relatively stable consumers with their recovery.
- A 7,500 square foot Education and Training Center, which would provide support to consumers and their families who aspire to a career in mental health services. The program will offer education and training to develop

the skills needed to work in the public mental health system. All of the stakeholder groups supported the development of the property for these programs.

- A 750 square foot Maintenance building where general site maintenance equipment will be held.

### **Funding**

On August 15, 2008 the California Department of Mental Health (DMH) approved the County's Capital Facilities and Technological Needs Component Proposal for an allocation of \$28.3 million dollars and on July 30, 2008 the County was informed that it would receive an additional allocation of \$8.9 million dollars. The total allocation for Orange County is approximately \$37.2 million to be spent over the next ten years. The Capital Facilities Project Proposal will request \$18.3 million of the Capital Facilities funds to provide mental health services at 401 S. Tustin Street, Orange. The balance of the funds will be used for additional capital and technology projects that are currently in the planning and coordination phase.

### **Project Proposal Requirements**

DMH requires the County to ensure the property/facility is maintained and will be used to provide MHPA programs/services and/or supports for a minimum of twenty years. The Health Care Agency (HCA) will provide the long-term maintenance of the 401 S. Tustin Street Facility through Orange County Public Works Facilities Operations, which provides full maintenance services for HCA buildings.

In addition, on January 13, 2009, the Board of Supervisors will consider a Minute Order authorizing the Director of the Health Care Agency or designee to certify that the property/facilities developed with the Capital Facilities funds will be maintained and used to provide MHPA programs/services and/or supports for a minimum of twenty years.

### **Summary**

Developing a Crisis Residential Program, Wellness/Peer Support Center, and an Education and Training Center at 401 S. Tustin Street will support MHPA goals, produce long-term impacts, and expand accessible community-based services for consumers and their families. The buildings on this property will be used exclusively to provide MHPA programs, services, and supports to mental health consumers and family members residing in Orange County.