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## PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION FACT SHEET

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) provides funding to expand mental health care for children, youth, adults, and seniors using programs proven to be effective. A portion of the MHSA funds have been set aside to provide Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) services.

### **What are “Prevention & Early Intervention Services”?**

The *Prevention* element of the MHSA PEI component includes programs and services that are designed to help prevent the development of serious emotional or behavioral disorders and mental illness. *Early Intervention* is directed toward individuals and families for whom a short-duration (usually less than one year), relatively low-intensity intervention is appropriate to measurably improve a mental health problem or concern very early in its manifestation, thereby avoiding the need for more extensive mental health treatment or services; or to prevent a mental health problem from getting worse. PEI funding is *not intended* for filling gaps in treatment and recovery services for individuals who have been diagnosed with a serious mental illness or serious emotional disturbance and their families.

**Prevention and Early Intervention efforts focus on addressing five key community mental health needs and specific priority populations:**

- Disparities in Access to Mental Health Services
- Psycho-Social Impact of Trauma
- At-Risk Children, Youth and Young Adult Populations
- Stigma and Discrimination
- Suicide Risk

### **Local PEI Funds**

In October 2007, Community Planning Funding for PEI was awarded to Orange County (\$2,029,700.) Any planning money that was not used in planning could be used to provide services. Based on an extensive community planning process, Orange County developed a plan containing eight PEI Projects and 33 programs divided among the eight projects. The Plan was approved and Orange County has been allocated a total of \$75,320,400 for PEI planning and services from FY 2007-08 through FY 2010/11.

### **PEI Statewide Projects**

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) asked that counties set aside funding for statewide projects in the following categories: Suicide Prevention, School Mental Health, and Stigma and Discrimination Reduction. Orange County is a member of a Joint Powers Authority that will conduct the planning and project development in those three categories for its members. Orange County was allocated a total of \$3,334,200 for each of four fiscal years to participate in the statewide projects. There are two additional statewide PEI projects. Funding for Technical Assistance and Capacity Building is directly allocated to counties. Allocation of funding for the fifth statewide project, Reducing Disparities, is still in the planning stage.