TECHNOLOGY

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) provides funding for services and supports that promote wellness, recovery and resiliency. A portion of the MHSA funds have been specifically set aside for Technology. The County must show that use of these funds will:

- Modernize and transform clinical and administrative information systems to improve quality of care, operational efficiency and cost effectiveness.
- Increase consumer and family empowerment by providing the tools for secure consumer and family access to health information within a wide variety of public and private settings.

Required Components of an MHSA Funded Project

Any MHSA funded technology project must meet certain requirements to be considered appropriate for this funding.

- It must fit in with the State's long term goal to develop an Integrated Information Systems Infrastructure where all counties have integrated information systems that can securely access and exchange information.
- It must be part of and support the County's overall plan to achieve an Integrated Information Systems infrastructure through the implementation of an Electronic Health Record (EHR).

Use of Technology Funds

County of Orange Health Care Agency Behavioral Health Services (BHS) plans to implement a fully integrated EHR system that supports the goals of MHSA (promote wellness, recovery and resiliency). It will also comply with the federal requirements for Meaningful Use, which will benefit the clients we serve. Implementation involves two stages. We have completed the 1st stage of upgrading our infrastructure to provide us with the necessary platform upon which to develop the functionality needed to further enhance our EHR.

We have now begun the 2nd stage: building the enhancements to our EHR, Integrated Records Information System (IRIS), which will provide clinical documentation and decision support. This is a large project and will be accomplished in three phases. The 1st phase will be implemented at a select number of Mental Health Outpatient clinics. First phase enhancements include the core clinical documentation management system with clinical decision support; medication and prescription management; mobile access to the EHR; and kiosks in selected locations to afford increased consumer/family access to computers and the internet. Additional technical improvements to our EHR include document imaging (which includes such functionality as electronic signature pads and the ability to scan documents); compliance auditing, monitoring, and reporting. In later phases, we will include consumer access via a portal and the ability to securely interface with our contract providers and to participate in Health Information Exchanges outside County BHS, as appropriate. Further enhancements will be made to the disaster recovery system and ensure continued control over clinical data security and privacy.

Funding has been approved for the BHS EHR project by the MHSA Technology Advisory Committee. The County has chosen to continue with its current vendor, Cerner Corporation. The contract with Cerner was approved by the County Board of Supervisors on 9/11/12.