The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) is undertaking an intensive, inclusive, and multi-faceted approach to developing the County’s Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Plan, one of five plans authorized by the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) enacted by California voters in 2004.

Prevention in mental health involves reducing risk factors or stressors, building protective factors and skills, and increasing support. Prevention promotes positive cognitive, social and emotional development and encourages a state of well-being that allows the individual to function well in the face of changing and sometimes challenging circumstances.

Early Intervention is directed toward individuals and families for whom a short duration (usually less than one year) and 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 preventing a mental health problem from getting worse.

Service Area Approach. The focus for developing the L.A. County PEI Plan is at the Service Area level—utilizing informational meetings, key informant interviews, focus groups, and community forums. Service Area profiles identifying socio-economic demographic data and mental health statistics, as well as data related to health, education, social services, and public safety will be developed to aid the planning process.

**SDMH also recommended additional sectors, including community family resource centers, employment, and media.**

**Funding.** The following chart lists the estimated funding amounts for Los Angeles County from 2007-2009.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FISCAL YEAR</th>
<th>LA COUNTY DMH PEI ESTIMATED FUNDING</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007-2008</td>
<td>$34,001,800*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Includes $17,074,500 million in planning funds</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>$57,161,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td>$91,162,800</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

A minimum of 51% of the overall County PEI Plan budget must be dedicated to the child (ages 0-15) and transition-age youth (TAY ages 16-25) populations.
Community Involvement in PEI Planning

Q. Who should get involved in developing the PEI plan?
Anyone who has an interest in mental health services. People who care about how mental health prevention and early intervention services will be delivered in Los Angeles County.

Q. How can I get involved in PEI planning in the Service Areas?
Participate in your local mental health Service Area Advisory Committees (SAACs). Contact the DMH Service Area District Chief for meeting schedules, check the DMH website www.dmh.lacounty.gov or e-mail mhsapenl@dmh.lacounty.gov

Q. What are other opportunities to provide input to the PEI Plan?
Participate in key informant interviews and focus groups, which will occur in late 2007-early 2008. Community forums, where participants will be asked to select specific PEI strategies for their Service Areas, will be held starting in February 2008.

Q. How do I get information about getting involved?
Email mhsapenl@dmh.lacounty.gov or call (213) 738-2331 to receive information about upcoming community events and participation in planning for PEI programs.

Q. What if I don’t understand some of the terms used in this booklet or want to learn more about PEI?
PEI guidelines, resource documents, and a glossary are available on the State DMH website http://www.dmh.ca.gov/mhiaa/PreventionEarlyIntervention.asp