

Dear CACC Conference Partners,

Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), was passed in 2004 to help expand mental health service accessibility statewide, with funding generated from a 1 percent surtax on incomes above one million dollars. Since mental health impacts case types throughout the court, including family law, dependency, juvenile justice, and adult criminal cases, use of MHSA funds may be appropriate to support a wide range of court programs. Courts may leverage MHSA funding in many different ways, including:

- **Promoting prevention and early intervention** by improving mental health screening and assessments processes.
- **Improving coordination and linkage** of mental health services through strength based case management, peer recovery coaches, and/or mentors focused on whole person and trauma informed care.
- **Testing new innovative approaches** to better serve community needs. Please follow the MHSA Information Sheet links to view examples of approved Innovation projects.

Some courts have expressed challenges in accessing MHSA funding. To assist in making the process of obtaining funding more accessible, we have developed the attached Proposition 63: MHSA Information Sheet. This sheet gives details about the types of programs, or “components”, the MHSA funds, and an overview of ways to access the funding. It also provides a more in-depth explanation of the Innovation funds component.

To access funds in any of the components, we highly encourage local courts to develop strong partnerships with behavioral health and criminal justice stakeholders to help identify resources and gaps in behavioral/mental health services within their community. Building these important partnerships can help stakeholders actively pursue and secure MHSA funding to improve vital mental health care services for families and communities in California.

A good first step is to perform outreach to your behavioral health department (preferably Judge to Behavioral Health Director). The Judicial Council recently released a helpful webinar on [Partnering with County Behavioral Health to Serve Justice Involved Populations](#) (See Link). Additionally, many counties have an MHSA Coordinator to assist and every county has a dedicated MHSA website for county specific initiatives and RFPs. Follow this link to the [Department of Health Care Services \(DHCS\)](#) on mental health services within your county.

We greatly appreciate your time and consideration. Please feel free to reach out to Tareq M. Nazamy, *Senior Analyst, Judicial Council of California, Center for Children, Families & the Courts* with any questions or requests for assistance at Tareq.Nazamy@jud.ca.gov or telephone at **(415) 865-7666**.