



**Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)
Community Services and Supports Plan (CSS)
Collaboration with Area Agency on Aging
Thirty Day Public Comment and Review
Posting Date: June 21, 2011 to July 21, 2011**

The Merced County Department of Mental Health (MCDMH) will be establishing a contract with Area Agency on Aging for Older Adult System of Care Services. In 2009 the Department of Mental Health encountered a reduction in the workforce in which program services were impacted. This collaboration will enhance and expand needed services for older adults living in our community. The Older Adult System of Care (OASOC) Program will provide bilingual Spanish and English services to older adults. Services will be provided at clinic sites, in client homes, or at other sites, such as primary care providers. The Program will coordinate treatment with primary care providers and provide older adult peer support and education. This program will advance the goals of the Mental Health Services Act in four key areas: community collaboration, cultural competency; client/family driven services; and wellness, recovery, resiliency and hope. The Area Agency on Aging will follow the current approved Older Adult System of Care work plan approved under the MHSA Community Services and Supports Plan. The funding amount for this collaboration is \$200,000 dollars. Merced County Older Adult suicide rate is one of the highest in the state of California. Older adults are more likely to commit suicide than any other age group due to significant loss of declining health, loss of mobility; death of spouse or close friend; loss of independence, loss of social roles, isolation due to inability to leave the home, loneliness, economic insecurity, and food insecurity. In accordance with Welfare Institution Code (WIC) 5848 (a), this update will be posted for 30 days public comment and review. The MHSA Community Services and Supports Collaboration with Area Agency on Aging will be posted on the Mental Health Department website <http://www.co.merced.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=487>. Residents can request an electronic version of the documents by emailing mhsa@co.merced.ca.us. The public can also request a hard copy of the document

by contacting the department at (209) 381-6805 or toll free at 1-866-626-6472. The following staff will be on hand to accept requests:

English speaking residents Christina Nishihama

Spanish speaking residents Rosemarie Perez

Hmong speaking residents Blong Lee

To provide input, recommendations and comments, please call 1-866-626-6472 or email your comments to mhsa@co.merced.ca.us.

For more information regarding Merced County, please visit our website at www.co.merced.ca.us