



Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency

Healthy People, Healthy Communities

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Director

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**Adult and Older Adult
System of Care**

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**Children and Family
System of Care**

Mary Elliott, Director
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**Community Health
Services**

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Administrative Offices

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Karen Rizzolo, Mental Health Branch, Administrative Secretary
Mendocino County Health and Human Services

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Mendocino County Mental Health Board Seeking Applicants

The Mendocino County Mental Health Board (MHB) is seeking interested mental health services consumers, their family members, and persons representing the public interest who are willing to serve on the Mental Health Board.

Each of the five districts in the county has three seats on the MHB. Currently there are open seats in all five districts. One County Supervisor is a member of the board providing an overview of county operations as they affect Mental Health Services. County employees, their spouses or those employed by a vendor who contracts with the Mental Health Branch are not eligible to serve.

Mental Health Board members attend monthly board meetings as well as the quarterly meeting of the Mental Health Board Special Committee for the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) programs. The regular meeting of the Mental Health Board is scheduled for the third Wednesday of the month from 9:30–12:30 Meetings are held at various locations throughout the county. Mileage reimbursement is available to Board members.

MHSA programs were started four years ago with funds from Proposition 63 specifically to develop new mental Health programs which emphasize clientdirected approaches to services. There is an emphasis on recovery programs, workforce education and training both for people with a mental health diagnosis and for professional service providers, and for prevention and early intervention of mental illness.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend these open Mental Health Board meetings to ask questions and give testimony during the public comment segment of the meetings. Mary Elliott, Director of the Children

and Family System of Care and Susan Era, Director of the Adult and Older Adult System of Care report regularly to the Mental Health Board about new program developments, budgetary concerns and other matters to keep the board informed as to ongoing services.

Mendocino County Mental Health services is at risk of losing additional essential funding pending resolution of the California State budget problems. Community interest and involvement play a vital role in advocating for the continuation and improvement of Mental Health services.

To apply to become a member of the MHB for your district, complete an application and return it to either the County Clerk's office or the Mental Health Branch Administrative office, 501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah CA 95482, or fax it to 707-463-4245. The application can be found at the Mendocino County website <http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/bos/pdf/APPLICATION.pdf> . Upon receipt your application will go to the Chair of the MHB who will contact you for an interview with the board.

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