

**Mental Health Services Act
Innovation Planning
August 17, 2009**

Respite Bed Programming with Client Consumer Support

The State of California has identified a new pot of money that Trinity County Behavioral Health may apply for in fiscal year 2009/2010. The State has allocated \$70,000. from Proposition 63, the voter passed Initiative from November of 2004, for projects in our County considered innovative. Behavioral Health is holding a special Public Hearing facilitated by the Mental Health Board on September 23rd @ 10:30 at the Behavioral Health Main Office at 1450 Main Street to discuss how to best use this new resource. This money must be spent on a project that has a learning outcome that may benefit not only Trinity County but also other rural public mental health systems.

Trinity County has decided to apply this resource to the new respite bed program that will provide an alternative to hospitalization. The bed itself will be free to those persons who have an intensive need. What is new about this concept is that the public mental health system is asking for help and support from the consumer community to partner with us in responding to the special needs of persons enjoying the use of the respite bed. It is our belief that not only will the consumer using the bed benefit from receiving peer support, but in the spirit of recovery, we believe that those persons providing the support will also grow in their own recovery from the distress of mental illness. Consumers who have completed a leadership Course taught at the consumer drop in centers both in Weaverville and Hayfork will be eligible for stipends for their services. Additionally, the Agency will begin gathering more data on those residents in crisis, so we may begin to develop a better profile of who might be a good candidate for the new bed. Please consider dropping by the Public Hearing to weigh in on this important topic.