

Background

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) requires the California Department of Mental Health (DMH) to develop a five-year education and training plan (Five-Year Plan). In April 2008, DMH's Five-Year Plan was approved by the California Mental Health Planning Council to cover the period from April 2008 to April 2013. The Five-Year Plan provides the vision, values and mission for Workforce Education & Training (WE&T) programs and activities to assist California in moving toward an integrated mental health service delivery system.

MHSA also requires DMH to establish guidelines for the content of the Workforce Education and Training (WE&T) plan that each county mental health program must submit as part of its program and expenditure plan. The county WE&T plan must demonstrate consistency with the vision, values, and mission of the Five-Year Plan, and address the intent of the MHSA through development of a competent and diverse workforce capable of meeting the mental health needs of the public.