

what's @stake

A publication of the CA MHSA Multicultural Coalition (CMMC)

March 2012

ISSUE:

There are \$60 million earmarked for the Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) statewide project for disparity reduction, the California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP). This money was recently put into a special trust fund.

Governor Brown's 2012-2013 budget proposal has Trailer Bill Language seeking to move these funds to the Department of Public Health (DPH) without any specific language empowering the Office of Multicultural Services (OMS) to have authority over how to spend these funds.

POSITION:

Support the Office of Multicultural Services (OMS) having (1) administration authority over the \$60M set aside for the PEI statewide project on reducing disparities, and (2) that this administration authority include the development, release, execution and evaluation of RFPs and other activities related to the disbursement of said funds.

RATIONALE:

- CMMC, in partnership with the Facilitator/Plan Writer, is responsible for the Strategic Plan that will serve as the basis for how the \$60M set aside funds for PEI projects should be spent to reduce health disparities in California. Together with CMMC, **OMS has been working to ensure that (1) the needs of underserved communities are heard** and that **(2) the promising practices of these same communities are valued for their efficacy** in cultural competence and disparity elimination.
- **OMS is the ideal entity to administer these \$60 million** because it has the **(1) experience** in working with both Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) and California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP), **(2) institutional knowledge** of both MSHOAC and CRDP, and **(3) trust of stakeholders from underserved communities**, which enable it to **ensure the continuity of efforts** in disparity reduction and cultural competence promotion.