Butte County
LAND OF NATURAL WEALTH AND BEAUTY
BUTTE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
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Butte County MHSA Program Wins CSAC Merit Award
For Hospital Alternative Program for Youth

Oroville, CA – Butte County officials announced that they have received an award from the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) for the Hospital Alternative Program for Youth administered by the Butte County Department of Behavioral Health.

Every year, CSAC recognizes the innovative and creative spirit of California county governments as they find new and cost-effective ways of providing programs and services to their citizens. This year, over 200 entries were submitted to CSAC, and Butte County received one of 23 Merit Awards given to California counties.

For many years, the only option for families whose child was suffering a psychiatric crisis was for the child to travel several hours away for hospitalization. Utilizing Mental Health Services Act funds, the Butte County Department of Behavioral Health, in partnership with Youth For Change, developed the Hospital Alternatives Program (HAP).

Since its inception in November 2010, the Youth For Change HAP program has reduced youth hospital days by 26%. The individualized and innovative service allows for immediate, in-home or school services to youth and their families 24 hours a day to address the crisis and provide effective, specific interventions tailored to their needs. Services are very short-term and lead to a comprehensive team approach involving family and other key support persons in the youth's life.

"We are very proud of this achievement accomplished in partnership with Youth For Change," said Anne Robin, Director of Behavioral Health Department. "We continue to work with the Board of Supervisors, staff, partners, community members, families and clients to improve the behavioral health services in Butte County."

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