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The Mental Health Workforce: Who's Meeting California's Needs?

In *The Mental Health Workforce: Who's Meeting California's Needs?* by Tina McRee MA, Catherine Dower JD, Bram Briggance MA, Jenny Vance, Dennis Keane MPH and Edward H. O'Neil PhD, published by the UCSF Center for the Health Professions (2003), the following corrections are made by this errata sheet. The authors regret the errors and apologize for any misunderstandings they may have caused

Page 10, first paragraph should read:

"In 2000, SB 1748 (California Department of Mental Health, 2001d) sponsored a task force to address and identify options for meeting the mental health staffing needs of state and county health, human services, and criminal justice agencies. The task force focused on studying options for meeting the workforce needs of public agencies, including curriculum and training reforms and expansion of educational opportunities for youth. The task force also explored collaboration and partnership options between communities, public agencies, educational institutions, and private/nonprofit organizations that currently compete for a limited supply of workers. It studied a model career academy program established to train entry-level mental health workers, and a distance education program developed by the California Institute for Mental Health and collaborating universities to train MSWs in remote areas of the state."

Page 23, first full sentence should read:

"The California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists reports that historically MFTs in the state have worked primarily in private practice, and a small majority still do so, but that the profession is increasingly becoming one of employed – rather than independent – practitioners (Riemersma, 2003). [new citation]

Page 42, first and second lines should read:

"...(BBS)¹⁵ licenses only marriage and family therapists (MFT), licensed educational psychologists (LEP), and clinical social workers (LCSWs are discussed in subsequent section)."

Page 42, first full paragraph, second sentence should read:

"Since there is no prohibition for non-licensed counselors to work, it is possible that the available mental and behavioral health workforce is larger than data suggest."

Page 42, second full paragraph should read:

"According to the Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS), there are 70 approved or accredited training programs in the state for marriage and family therapists. In addition to licensing MFTs and LEPs, the BBS enumerates and tracks the practice history of MFT interns, clinical social work associates, registered continuing education providers and registered marriage and family referral providers (California Board of Behavioral Sciences, 2002a). MFT licenses must be

renewed every two years; licenses of practitioners who meet the continuing education requirements, have been convicted of no crimes, and have paid the required fees are renewed. In addition to the MFT training programs, California has additional graduate training programs in counseling professions (including two in substance abuse counseling) that would qualify graduates to apply for national examinations. For example, passage of the National Board of Certified Counselor's examination is accepted by many states in lieu of state-specific licensing examinations since it has been recognized as reliable and based on strict educational and performance standards (National Board of Certified Counselors and Affiliates, 2001a).

Page 64, third and fourth paragraphs, should read:

"In California, PNPs are registered nurses (RNs) with a masters degree in nursing, a specialty in psychiatry, and a state-issued nurse practitioner certificate (California Mental Health Planning Council, 2002). Some PNPs are also trained in primary care and can manage common illnesses (California Mental Health Planning Council, 2002). As nurse practitioners, PNPs have authority to prescribe ("furnish") some medications, but may not prescribe Schedule II psychotropic medications primarily used to treat mental and behavioral disorders. PNPs practice in collaboration with a physician, usually a psychiatrist, and use standardized procedures that specify the circumstances in which physician consultation is necessary (California Code of Regulations title 16 sec. 1474, 2002)."

"Scheffler et al. (1998) found that only about 0.7 percent of all nurse practitioners in the U.S. worked primarily in mental health but their representation in this area increased by up to 23 percent between 1986 and 1992 (Scheffler et al., 1998). Primary care nurse practitioners are employed by clinics, community health agencies, hospitals and other settings where mental and behavioral care is provided to patients; however, there are no data describing their practice, the degree to which they provide mental health services, or trends in their use as providers for this patient population which could indicate movement between primary care and specialized nurse practitioner practice."

Throughout the report, references to "O'Hearn, K. 2002" should read "Hearn, K. 2002".

New reference: Riemersma, M. (June 12, 2003). Personal communication: Executive Director, California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists.