

Mental Health Acts

MH/MR Act of 1966

- Established a State-supervised, County-administered system of community-based mental health services
- Not an entitlement program—limited by available funding
- Priority on adults with serious mental illness (SMI) and children with serious emotional disturbance (SED)

Mental Health Procedures Act of 1976

- Requires coordination of services and County-based centralized intake
- Services include:
 - crisis/emergency response
 - short-term inpatient
 - outpatient
 - aftercare for persons discharged from state mental hospitals
- State-operated psychiatric hospitals
- Treatment shall include: diagnosis, evaluation, therapy, or rehabilitation needed to alleviate pain and distress and to facilitate the recover of a person from mental illness
- Treatment shall also include care and other services that supplement treatment and aid or promote such recovery

MH Procedures Act: Underlying Principles

- Mental illnesses are treatable diseases
- Recovery is possible
- Preference for voluntary treatment, and least restrictive services consistent with adequate treatment
- Individualized treatment with ongoing monitoring
- Involuntary treatment allowed, but requires both physicians and judges