

# California Women's Mental Health Policy Council

## **Position Statement: Realignment**

Realignment is the restructuring of state-directed programs to a county-based system wherein services are planned, managed and delivered at the county level. Realignment is currently structured to identify dedicated funding sources, managed in a trust fund at the local level, with considerable flexibility to county planners as to services delivered and the design of those services.

### **Realignment can be designed to promote an integrated, multi-disciplinary approach to services to women.**

- The Realignment framework should include values that direct funding to integrated services responsive to the full diversity of consumers throughout their life span, including services designed to meet the unique needs of women.
- Revenues must be adequate to meet the needs of seriously mentally ill women, stable enough to permit long-term planning, and must be protected from erosion due to costs of living and incursion from other (entitlement) programs.
- The establishment of a single point of responsibility at the local level for planning public mental health services is a strength; and will permit the adaptation of services to utilize new technologies and new service design to meet the special needs of women.
- Services should be prioritized so that those with the most complex and serious problems receive services.
- Service systems must be designed to include statewide performance outcome reporting that is simple and trustworthy, and that permits consumers of service, providers of service, and the public to determine whether the special needs of women are met in the service system.

**Public mental health services for women are inadequately funded. Funding and service design arrangements like Realignment must be structured to permit public review of the planning, management and delivery of services to women, and must include protection for the services now available and a structure for growth to meet the full range of needs for service.**