Group #5 (Alicia): Focus on Adult Services

There were 7 consumers/providers, 1 family member, and 1 county staff in this group.

1. **In looking at the key need and gap areas that have been identified so far, are there any, from your perspective, that are missing? If so, what are they?**
   - More peer services, and compassion
   - System needs to be more friendly
   - Needs to be easier to access services
   - More collaboration and quick and effective referrals
   - Enhance information and availability
   - Disseminate information besides email & technology
   - Language thinks in layman terms so everyone can understand
   - Other agencies (such as law enforcement) need to be informed about mental health issues
   - Stigma, discrimination against homeless individuals, and persons with mental health issues
   - Jails, lawyers, judges, and probation all need more information & training (about mental health issues)
   - Staff need training about mental health needs (including about medications and behavior)
   - Work and education incentives for peers
   - Housing
   - More opportunities for peers, providers, and family members to communicate
   - Wellness education, life skills
   - No peer or family staff at the County
   - Speakers bureau (“shadow speakers”)

2. **Which need or gap areas are most important?**
   - Housing; this is fundamental
   - Thorough “assessments” of person (mental health, substance use, educational level, financial, legal, etc). Note: some people find the word “assessment” offensive because it implies a “one down” relationship between the provider and the person seeking services.
   - Re-integration into the community (having other places to go besides MHCAN)
   - Stigma
   - Mental wellness

3. **Which need or gap areas should we focus on working on first?**
   - Housing
• Wellness
• Instead of assessment… recognizing the person, communication, relationship.

4. **Are there specific need or gap areas that may be unique or different for South County.**
   South County has a lot of potential. The gap is that there is not enough participation at Mariposa.

   Also, there is a North and South County divide. There needs to be more interaction (between MHCAN and Mariposa, for example).