



## ABOUT THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION (MHSOAC)

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The MHSOAC is a 16-member commission created with the passage of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to provide oversight, accountability and leadership on issues related to mental health in collaboration with clients, family members, unserved and underserved communities and mental health partners. The Commission holds regular public meetings focused on a variety of issues that impact the mental health field, including funding, client and family member involvement, cultural competency and reducing disparities, and evaluation of mental health programs. These meetings give many individuals throughout the state the opportunity to have their voices heard on mental health issues most important to them.

### MHSOAC Membership

The Commissioners are appointed to three-year terms and receive no compensation. Commissioners represent a wide-range of sectors that are affected by and have the potential to contribute to the mental health of California's citizens and include:

- the Attorney General or designee
- the Superintendent of Public Instruction or designee
- the Chairperson of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee or another member of the Senate selected by the President pro Tempore of the Senate
- the Chairperson of the Assembly Health Committee or another member of the Assembly selected by the Speaker of the Assembly

And twelve (12) of the Commission members are appointed by the Governor who is required to seek individuals who have had personal or family experience with mental illness:

- two persons with a severe mental illness
- a family member of an adult or senior with a severe mental illness
- a family member of a child who has or has had a severe mental illness
- a physician specializing in alcohol and drug treatment
- a mental health professional
- a county sheriff
- a superintendent of a school district
- a representative of a labor organization
- a representative of an employer with less than 500 employees
- a representative of an employer with more than 500 employees
- a representative of a health care services plan or insurer

### Mission

The MHSOAC provides the vision and leadership in collaboration with clients, their family members and underserved communities, to ensure Californians understand mental health is essential to overall health. The MHSOAC holds public mental health systems accountable and provides oversight for eliminating disparities, promoting mental wellness, recovery and resiliency, and ensuring positive outcomes for individuals living with serious mental illness and their families.

The Commission recommends policies and strategies to further the vision to transform and improve the mental health system in a way that is consistent with the MHSA values.

## **Standing Committees**

The MHSOAC has five standing committees:

- Client and Family Leadership Committee
- Cultural and Linguistic Competence Committee
- Mental Health Funding & Policy Committee
- MHSOAC Services Committee
- Evaluation Committee

Ideally each standing Committee has a maximum of 15 members and shall include public membership. Of this public membership, at least two consumers, at least two are members of underserved ethnic and cultural communities. Public membership of each Committee shall be selected by the Committee Chair and Vice-chair. In their recruitment and appointment, Committee Chair and Vice-chair pay special attention to issues related to cultural diversity and competency. Commission staff and/or consultants staff each Committee.

## **Role in Public Mental Health System**

The Commission is charged with ensuring oversight and accountability for the public mental health system as it relates to the MHSA by 1) influencing mental health policy; 2) ensuring the adequate collection and tracking of mental health data and information; 3) ensuring that counties are provided with appropriate support; 4) ensuring that MHSA funding and services comply with relevant statutes and regulations; 5) evaluating the impact of the MHSA; 6) utilizing evaluation results for quality improvement; and, 7) communicating the impact and consequences of the MHSA. This is accomplished through collaboration with clients, family members, unserved and underserved communities and stakeholders, including state and county departments of behavioral health. The MHSOAC's role of providing oversight and accountability includes facilitating the delivery of training and technical assistance to counties/programs and providing oversight to the state entity that has the contracts with CiMH or other selected contractors to ensure that training and technical assistance includes:

- what the counties want;
- what clients, family members, unserved and underserved communities, and providers believe counties/programs need; and
- what supports positive program outcomes based on research.