



MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES  
OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION

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November 1, 2010

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: Eduardo Vega, Chair

SUBJECT: Client and Family Leadership Committee Membership

The Client and Family Leadership Committee of the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) is soliciting applications for membership. The MHSOAC will make a final decision as how best to structure the committees at its November 18, 2010. This letter sets forth the current composition of the committee; however, that composition may change depending on the outcome of the November 18<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting.

The Client and Family Leadership Committee (“Committee”) ensures that the perspective and participation of those affected by mental illnesses and their family members are a significant factor in all MHSOAC decisions and recommendations. This Committee has specific focus on clients/consumers, family members and caregivers of traditionally underserved communities.

To ensure a variety of engaged voices and perspectives, the Committee’s leadership encourages California residents to apply who have lived experience with the effects of mental illnesses, either personally or through family members (including young children and older adults). *We are especially seeking individuals from smaller California counties, rural regions and traditionally under-represented communities to contribute their unique perspectives to this important group.*

The Committee is comprised of mental health services consumers/clients, parents of children diagnosed with serious emotional disorders and family members. Individuals from the following groups are especially encouraged to apply:

- Client/consumer (past or present) of public mental health services
- Transitional age youth (16-25)
- Family members/significant others
- Parents or caregivers of minor children or older adults

- Educators
- Providers of mental health services
- People of diverse ethnic, racial, cultural communities (including sexual minorities)
- People with disabilities (in addition to psychiatric disabilities)

Commitments of selected Committee members are as follows:

- Attend a minimum of 75 percent of Committee meetings in person or by teleconference (Meetings of Committee are usually on a monthly basis)
- Attend at least one MHSOAC general meeting per year in person
- Contribute to Committee work products, including review, feedback and writing of recommendations, position papers, etc.
- Participate and communicate with Committee members between meetings on Committee business and/or work product
- Advance the vision, goals and work of the Committee in their local communities

Committee members' travel and expenses for meeting participation will be reimbursed by MHSOAC. No additional remuneration is associated with Committee membership.

Consistent participation in the Committee meetings, either in person or over the phone, is critical to the success of the Committee. Committee members must be able to commit to regular participation and attendance. If a Committee member cannot attend a Committee meeting the member will need to notify the Committee Chair and the Committee staff in advance to ensure a quorum is still reached. In accordance with the MHSOAC Rules of Procedure, if a Committee member misses more than one (1) Committee meeting without notice or three (3) Committee meetings in a calendar year with notice the Committee Chair has discretion to decide whether it is in the best interest of the Committee to have that Committee member replaced.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in joining the Client and Family Leadership Committee, please complete an application and send it to the above address. Membership applications can be found at the MHSOAC website <http://www.mhsoac.ca.gov/soac-committees.aspx>. Applications will be accepted until 11/19/10. If there are any questions contact **Matthew Lieberman**, Committee Staff, at 916-445-8793 or by email [matthew.lieberman@dmh.ca.gov](mailto:matthew.lieberman@dmh.ca.gov). Applicants may be asked to be available for an interview by phone. Applications that are favorably reviewed but not selected for Committee membership will be retained for one year.

cc: Sherri L. Gauger  
Beverly Whitcomb  
Norma Pate