



MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION

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November 1, 2010

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: Larry Poaster, Chair
Larry Trujillo, Vice-Chair

SUBJECT: Mental Health Funding and Policy Committee Membership

The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) is actively recruiting for membership on the Mental Health Funding and Policy Committee. 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 18th Commission meeting.

The Mental Health Funding and Policy Committee is charged to ensure that all Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds are “expended in the most cost effective manner and services are provided in accordance with recommended best practices subject to local and state oversight to ensure accountability to taxpayers and to the public.” The Committee’s objectives include, financial reporting, advising the Commission on State and Federal budget issues and developing recommendations on fiscal policy issues designed to maintain the fiscal integrity of the MHSA.

Desirable qualifications for individuals seeking membership on the Mental Health Funding and Policy Committee include knowledge and/or experience of the following:

- Public Finance Issues
- The State Budget Process
- Revenue/Budget Forecasting
- Accounting Principles
- Auditing Standards
- County Mental Health Budgets
- Fiscal Policy
- Legislative Process

In addition to the above range of experiences, the Mental Health Funding and Policy Committee will seek representation from clients, family members, representatives from underserved ethnic and cultural communities, community-based organizations, mental health professionals and the California Mental Health Director's Association. This wide range of experiences and knowledge will promote a strong foundation to achieve the Committee's objectives and goals.

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 Mental Health Funding and Policy 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 **Janna Lowder-Blanco**, Committee Staff, at (916) 445-8749 or by email Janna.Lowder@dmh.ca.gov .

cc: Sherri L. Gauger
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Norma Pate