

August 28, 2014 Commission Meeting

**Policy and Procedures Paper - “How Evaluation Efforts Can Contribute to MHSOAC-Adopted Oversight and Accountability Strategies: Encouraging Positive Outcomes Across the State.”**

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**Summary:** Dr. Renay Bradley, Director of Research and Evaluation, Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC), will present an overview of the MHSOAC Evaluation Committee adopted draft of the Policy and Procedures Paper, “How Evaluation Efforts Can Contribute to MHSOAC-Adopted Oversight and Accountability Strategies: Encouraging Positive Outcomes Across the State.” In 2010, the MHSOAC adopted a Policy Paper, titled, “Accountability through Evaluative Efforts: Focusing on Oversight, Accountability, and Evaluation”. This paper highlighted the Commission’s focus on evaluation as an oversight and accountability strategy. It outlines specific principles for evaluation (e.g., consistent with MHSOAC objectives, meaningful to consumers and family members, and contributes to quality improvement in policy development and services), as well as examples of core research questions that the Commission should focus on (e.g., How has the money been used? What has been the impact of investments in mental health? What could be done to improve efficiency and effectiveness of investments?). The 2010 paper also outlines next steps to be taken by the MHSOAC in evaluation. At this time, all of the next steps identified in the 2010 paper have been executed. In addition, the MHSOAC also adopted an Evaluation Master Plan in 2013 that provides evaluation objectives, principles, and focus areas that extend beyond those in the 2010 paper. The MHSOAC also now has an evaluation unit with seven staff focused specifically on evaluation efforts (at the time of the 2010 paper, no MSHOAC staff were devoted solely to evaluation). Given these substantial changes that have occurred in the last few years, the Evaluation Committee voted in 2013 to revise the 2010 paper so that it better reflected the current context.

The revised draft Policy and Procedures Paper is designed to provide the MHSOAC with direction regarding its evaluation efforts, including contributions to oversight and accountability strategies that the MHSOAC adopted in 2011. It sets forth specific processes through which evaluation efforts can contribute to the adopted oversight and accountability strategies (e.g., influence policy, ensure that counties are provided with support, evaluate the impact of the MHSA, use evaluation for quality improvement efforts). The paper describes a series of procedures for each of the seven adopted strategies. The procedures are structured so that they provide concrete methods that allow evaluation to contribute to each of the seven oversight and accountability strategies. Overall, the processes are designed to support continuous efforts to understand the status of the MHSA and California's mental health system, and understand when changes may be needed to ensure that the system is working to achieve the goals outlined in the MHSA.

The Evaluation Committee voted unanimously to adopt this paper and believe that the processes it describes will strengthen the Commission's ability to provide oversight of the MHSA and hold relevant entities accountable for their roles in California's public community-based mental health system.

**Enclosures:** How Evaluation Efforts Can Contribute to MHSOAC-Adopted Oversight and Accountability Strategies: Encouraging Positive Outcomes Across the State

**Handout:** A PowerPoint will be provided at the Commission meeting.

**Recommended Action:**

Approve the Policy and Procedures Paper, "How Evaluation Efforts Can Contribute to MHSOAC-Adopted Oversight and Accountability Strategies: Encouraging Positive Outcomes Across the State."

**Presenter:** Renay Bradley, Ph.D.  
Director of Research and Evaluation

**Motion:** The MHSOAC approves the Policy and Procedures Paper, "How Evaluation Efforts Can Contribute to MHSOAC-Adopted Oversight and Accountability Strategies: Encouraging Positive Outcomes Across the State."