



Outline for the Transition Age Youth Stakeholder Contract

Background

As part of the fiscal year 2012/13 State Budget, the Department of Mental Health (DMH) was eliminated and various contracts, services, and budgetary authorities originally granted to DMH were distributed to other state and local entities. Specifically, the funds and authority for a client stakeholder contract, designed to facilitate inclusion of stakeholders, was transferred to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC or Commission).

Statutory References

The passage of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) initiated, at the state and local levels, the concept of transparent and collaborative processes being implemented to determine the mental health needs, priorities, and services for California mental health consumers. This collaboration is documented in several Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code sections.

In W&I Code Section 5846(c), the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC or Commission) is mandated to “ensure that the perspective and participation of diverse community members reflective of California populations and others suffering from severe mental illness and their family members is a significant factor in all of its decisions and recommendations.” The Transitional Age Youth (TAY) stakeholder contract is one means of ensuring that such perspective and participation occurs.

The TAY stakeholder contract also supports the statutory requirement in W&I Code Section 5892(d) that the MHSA administrative fund “include funds to assist consumers and family members to ensure the appropriate state and county agencies give full consideration to concerns about quality, structure of service delivery, or access to services.” In addition, the contract would support the 2012 amendment to the W&I Code Section 5848(a) made by Assembly Bill 1467 that strengthened local stakeholders’ involvement by requiring counties to “demonstrate a partnership with constituents and stakeholders throughout the process that includes meaningful stakeholder involvement on mental health policy, program planning and implementation, monitoring, quality improvement, evaluation, and budget allocations.”

Goals

The contract shall:

1. Support the goals of the MHSA and the values of the MHSOAC.
2. Make an impact on California's mental health system.
3. Increase awareness of the perspective of Transitional Age Youth and the participation of those with lived experience, in the decision-making process of state and local agencies, including the MHSOAC.
4. Fortify the state and local stakeholder process through the involvement of TAY consumers in those processes.

Outline of Scope of Work

The Scope of Work may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- a. The contractor shall support, organize and staff the California Youth Empowerment Network (CAYEN), including its Boards annual three day strategic planning meeting, which focuses on training, networking and strategic planning; setting priorities, decision making, and educating TAY on mental health policies.
- b. The contractor will utilize their knowledge, and relationships with TAY service providers across the state to apprise and provide reports to the MHSOAC regarding trends and issues relevant to TAY stakeholders, including the MHSA Community Program Planning process and service provision. The contractor will work with the MHSOAC to inform the Commission on the strengths and limitations of MHSA funding and related services and their impact on local communities.
- c. The Contractor will conduct outreach to diversify and further TAY stakeholder participation at both the local and the state level. Provide reports that include numbers reached and other descriptive and quantitative information regarding outreach.
- d. The Contractor will support the work of the MHSOAC by promoting local and state level stakeholder participation at local and state level mental health forums, meetings, and other events.