



333 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250, Oakland, CA 94621  
Phone: 510-832-7337 Fax: 510-452-1645

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**MHSOAC Commission:**

Peers Envisioning and Engaging in Recovery Services (PEERS) was awarded the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) Client Stakeholder Project in 2013. The original proposal term was from April 2013 to November 2014 but the contract was extended through March 2015. Throughout the process there were adjustments and new requests for deliverables made by OAC and met by PEERS. We completed our last report in December 2014 and received the final payment for the contract in April 2015. During the project, on several occasions, PEERS and OAC representatives discussed the possibilities of how to use the resulting curriculum and project reports to further strengthen the mental health consumer voice within the MHSOAC processes. We had a successful relationship with MHSOAC throughout this project and completed deliverables in a timely and collaborative manner.

We recently heard that the MHSOAC Client Stakeholders Project is being renewed via a non-competitive contract awarded to one of our partner organizations. Based on our positive experience managing the Project and on discussions between PEERS and OAC staff before the contract ended, we were surprised to learn that PEERS was not included in preliminary conversations about the renewal. In addition, we learned that PEERS performance was discussed during public comment at the March 2014 meeting without a direct representative from our organization available to address criticisms of the project or the recommended next steps for the project.

**Questions for the Commission:**

1. Was there a contractual/procedural reason to omit a direct representative of PEERS from these conversations? If so, what was that reason?
2. What was the process in identifying a different organization for the sole source contract? We were unable to locate this discussion/process in the minutes.

**Requests for the OAC:**

1. Engage PEERS in a conversation about successes and issues that arose during the contract, including how to collaboratively work with counties and other CBOs to remove/decrease barriers to engaging underrepresented, inappropriately served communities.
2. Open up a Letter of Inquiry process to identify potential Stakeholder Project contractors, and to allow for a fair and fast contractor selection process.

Sincerely,

Chad A. Saunders, President

PEERS Board of Directors