
The Mental Health Services Act (MHSOAC)

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSOAC), also known as Prop 63, was passed by California voters in 2004. MHSOAC is funded by a 1% tax on personal incomes above a million dollars and is designed to expand and transform California’s county mental health systems.

To better serve individuals with and at risk for serious mental health issues, and their families, the MHSOAC:

- Facilitates Community Collaboration
- Promotes Cultural Competence
- Develop criteria and procedures for reporting of county and state performance outcomes
- Creates Individual and Family-Driven Programs
- Adopts a Wellness, Recovery and Resilience-Focus
- Facilitates Integrated Service Experience
- Designs Outcomes-Based Programs

The MHSOAC includes five distinct funding streams:

1. Community Services and Supports (CSS)—provides funds for direct services to individuals with severe mental illness. Full Service Partnerships (FSP) are in this category; FSPs provide wrap-around services or “whatever it takes” services to consumers. Housing is also included in this category.
2. Capital Facilities and Technological Needs (CFTN)—provides funding for building projects and increasing technological capacity to improve mental illness service delivery.
3. Workforce, Education and Training (WET)—provides funding to improve and build the capacity of the mental health workforce.
4. Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI)—provides a historic investment of 20% of Proposition 63 funding to recognize early signs of mental illness and to improve early access to services and programs, including the reduction of stigma and discrimination.
5. Innovation (INN)—funds and evaluates new approaches that increase access to the unserved and/or underserved communities; promotes interagency collaboration and increases the quality of services.

Program Components:

- Outreach to families, employers, primary care health care providers, and others to recognize the early signs of potentially severe and disabling mental illnesses.
- Access and linkage to medically necessary care provided by county mental health programs for children with severe mental illness, as defined in Section 5600.3, and for adults and seniors with severe mental illness, as defined in Section 5600.3, as early in the onset of these conditions as practicable.

- Reduction in stigma associated with either being diagnosed with a mental illness or seeking mental health services.
- Reduction in discrimination against people with mental illness.

The programs shall include mental health services similar to those provided under other programs effective in preventing mental illnesses from becoming severe, and shall also include components similar to programs that have been successful in reducing the duration of untreated severe mental illnesses and assisting people in quickly regaining productive lives.

The programs shall emphasize strategies to reduce the following negative outcomes that may result from untreated mental illness (often referenced as the “7 negative outcomes”):

1. Suicide
2. Incarcerations
3. School failure or dropout
4. Unemployment
5. Prolonged suffering
6. Homelessness
7. Removal of children from their homes

[MHSOAC Oversees the MHSA](#)

The role of the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) is to oversee the implementation of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). The MHSOAC is also responsible for developing strategies to overcome stigma. At any time, the MHSOAC may advise the Governor or the Legislature on mental health policy.

The MHSOAC has a statutory mandate to ensure that the perspective and participation of members and others suffering from severe mental illness and their family members is a significant factor in all of its decisions and recommendations (W&I Code §5846(c)). Carrying out this mandate requires active and productive engagement of consumers and family members across the lifespan, including diverse racial and ethnic stakeholder communities, with the expertise that comes from lived experience of mental illness

[Mission of the MHSOAC](#)

Provide vision and leadership, in collaboration with clients, their family members, and underserved communities, to ensure Californians understand mental health is essential to overall health. Hold public mental health systems accountable. Provide oversight for eliminating disparities; promote wellness, recovery and resiliency; and ensure positive outcomes for individuals living with serious mental illness and their families.