



Request to Authorize the MHSOAC Executive Director to Execute Contracts

February 25, 2016 MHSOAC Commission Meeting

Overview

In November 2004, California voters passed Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). The passage of the MHSA initiated, at the state and local levels, the concept of transparent and collaborative processes to determine the mental health needs, priorities, and services for California mental health consumers.

Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code Section 5892(d) requires the Mental Health Services administrative fund to “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.” The goal is to strengthen 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.”

The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC or Commission) oversees the activities of statewide stakeholder advocacy contracts funded under section 5892(d). These contracts are focused on supporting the mental health needs of clients, consumers, children and youth, and transition aged youth and their families through education, advocacy, and outreach efforts.

Budget Act 2015-2016

The fiscal year (FY) 2015/16 Budget Act included in the Commission’s budget, an additional one million dollars, subject to revenue availability, to support mental health advocacy on behalf of transition age youth, veterans, and racial and ethnic minorities to be awarded through a competitive process. The competitive process for funding to begin in FY 2016/17 is currently underway. In the interim, to address the need for immediate advocacy on behalf of these groups, the MHSOAC is proposing to enter into short term contracts with both the Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition (REMHDCO) and the California Association of Veterans Service Agencies (CAVSA).

The proposed contracts are intended to provide short term funding to support local and statewide training, outreach, and advocacy.

Proposed Outline for the Scope of Work

Overall Principles:

1. Alignment with the MHSA;
2. Focused on transformational change of the mental health system;
3. Enhance opportunities to ensure the perspective and participation of stakeholders are a significant factor at all levels of decision making;
4. Support a robust stakeholder process.

Outline of Scope of Work

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

1. Support the goals of the MHSA through participation in MHSOAC meetings, committees, and other related events and activities to ensure representation of stakeholder perspectives in the work and decisions of the Commission.
2. Develop or expand existing statewide networks of stakeholders with lived experience in their local mental health communities, including those from diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds.
3. Provide feedback to the MHSOAC regarding trends and issues relevant to stakeholders regarding local level planning and participation, access and linkage, and community needs. 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.
4. Conduct outreach to diversify and further stakeholder participation at both the local and the state level. Provide feedback to the MHSOAC regarding outreach efforts.
5. 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 activities and events.
6. Represent the perspective of stakeholder communities in national, state, and local policy discussions. Activities may include monitoring mental health related legislative issues and policies and organizing representatives of stakeholder communities to participate in advocacy efforts to educate and inform policy makers.