

CALIFORNIA MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL

POLICY PLATFORM

January 2016 - Revised

The California Mental Health Planning Council has federal and state mandates/duties to review State Plans, advocate for individuals with serious mental illness, children with severe emotional disturbance and other individuals with mental illnesses or emotional problems and to monitor the mental health services within the State.

The statements below are the Council's guiding principles.

1. Support proposals that embody the principles of the *Mental Health Master Plan*.
2. Support policies that reduce and eliminate stigma and discrimination.
3. Support proposals that address the human resources problem in the public mental health system with specific emphasis on increasing cultural diversity and promoting the employment of consumers and family members.
4. Support proposals that augment mental health funding, consistent with the principles of least restrictive care and adequate access, and oppose any cuts.
5. Support legislation that safeguards mental health insurance parity and ensures quality mental health services in health care reform
6. Support expanding affordable housing and affordable supportive housing.
7. Actively advocate for the development of housing subsidies and resources so that housing is affordable to people living on SSI.
8. Support expanding employment options for people with psychiatric disabilities, particularly processes that lead to certification and more professional status and establish stable career paths.
9. Support proposals to lower costs by eliminating duplicative, unnecessary, or ineffective regulatory or licensing mechanisms of programs or facilities.
10. Support initiatives that reduce the use of seclusion and restraint.
11. Support adequate funding for evaluation of mental health services.
12. Support initiatives that maintain or improve access to mental health services, particularly to unserved, underserved populations, and maintain or improve quality of services.
13. Oppose bills related to "NIMBYism" and restrictions on housing and siting facilities for providing mental health services.
14. Support initiatives that provide comprehensive health care and improved quality of life for people living with mental illness, and oppose any elimination of health benefits for low income beneficiaries, and advocate for reinstatement of benefits that have been eliminated.
15. Oppose legislation that adversely affects the principles and practices of the Mental Health Services Act.
16. Support policy that enhances the quality of the stakeholder process, improves the participation of consumers and family members, and fully represents the racial/cultural demography of the targeted population.

17. Support policies that require the coordination of data and evaluation processes at all levels of mental health services.
18. Support policies that promote appropriate services to be delivered in the least restrictive setting possible.
19. Support policies or legislation that promote the mission, training and resources for local behavioral health boards and commissions.
20. Support policies/initiatives that promote the integration of mental health, substance use disorders and physical health care services.

The policies below are issues of interest to the Council.

1. Support proposals that advocate for blended funding for programs serving clients with co-occurring disorders that include mental illness.
2. Support proposals that advocate for providing more services in the criminal and juvenile justice systems for persons with serious mental illnesses and/or children, adolescents, and transition-aged youth with serious emotional disturbances, including clients with co-occurring disorders.
3. Support proposals that specify or ensure that the mental health services provided to AB109 populations are paid for with AB 109 funding.
4. Support the modification or expansion of curricula for non-mental health professionals to acquire competency in understanding basic mental health issues and perspectives of direct consumers and family members.
5. Promote the definition of outreach to mean “patient, persistent, and non-threatening contact” when used in context of engaging hard to reach populations.
6. Support policies, legislation or statewide initiatives that ensure the integrity of processes at the local behavioral health boards and commissions.
7. Support the modification or expansion of curricula for Mental Health professionals to fully encompass the concepts of recovery, resiliency, cultural competence, cultural humility, and perspectives of consumers, family members and members of cultural communities.