

# CALIFORNIA MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL

## LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

January 2015

### Mandatory Planks

- Support any proposal that embodies the principles of the *Mental Health Master Plan*.
- Support policies that reduce and eliminate stigma and discrimination.
- Support any proposal that addresses 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.
- Support any proposal that augments mental health funding, consistent with the principles of least restrictive care and adequate access, and oppose any cuts.
- Support legislation that safeguards mental health insurance parity and ensures quality mental health services in health care reform
- Support expanding affordable housing and affordable supportive housing.
- Actively advocate for the development of housing subsidies and resources so that housing is affordable to people living on SSI.
- Support expanding employment options for people with psychiatric disabilities, particularly processes that lead to certification and more professional status and establish stable career paths.
- Support any proposal to lower costs by eliminating duplicative, unnecessary, or ineffective regulatory or licensing mechanisms of programs or facilities.
- Support any initiatives that reduce or eliminate the use of seclusion and restraint.
- Support adequate funding for evaluation of mental health services.
- Support initiatives that maintain or improve access to mental health services, particularly to underserved populations, and maintain or improve quality of mental health services.
- Oppose all bills related to “NIMBYism” and restrictions on housing and siting facilities for providing mental health services.
- 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.
- Oppose any legislation that adversely affects the principles and practices of the Mental Health Services Act.
- 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.
- Support any policy that requires the coordination of data and evaluation processes at all levels of mental health services.

### **Discretionary Planks (Require Deliberation & Discussion)**

- Support any proposal that advocates for blended funding for programs serving clients with co-occurring disorders that include mental illness.
- Support any proposal that advocates for providing more services in the criminal and juvenile justice systems for persons with serious mental illnesses or children, adolescents, and transition-aged youth with serious emotional disturbances, including clients with co-occurring disorders.
- Support any proposal that specifies or ensures that the mental health services provided to AB109 populations are paid for with AB 109 funding.
- 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.
- Promote the definition of outreach to mean “patient, persistent, and non-threatening contact” when used in context of engaging hard to reach populations.