CMHPC

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

CHARTER 2013

Purpose: The purpose of the Advocacy Committee is to address public issues affecting the effectiveness of mental health programs and quality of life for persons living with mental illness. This includes increasing public mental health awareness through press and media, partnering with local consumer advocacy agencies for access and improved quality of care, and responding to proposed legislation, rule-making, and budget bills based on the CMHPC platform.

Mandate: WIC 5772. The California Mental Health Planning Council shall have the powers and authority necessary to carry out the duties imposed upon it by this chapter, including, but not limited to, the following:

(a) To advocate for effective, quality mental health programs.
(e) To advise the Legislature, the State Department of Health Care Services, and county boards on mental health issues and the policies and priorities that this state should be pursuing in developing its mental health system.
(j) To advise the Director of Health Care Services on the development of the state mental health plan and the system of priorities contained in that plan.
(k) To assess periodically the effect of realignment of mental health services and any other important changes in the state's mental health system, and to report its findings to the Legislature, the State Department of Health Care Services, local programs, and local boards, as appropriate.
(l) To suggest rules, regulations, and standards for the administration of this division.

Guiding Principles: All advocacy efforts and proposed legislation shall be reviewed to ensure that the following best practices and principles are included.

Cultural Competence	Full Accessibility across the life span	Wellness & Recovery
Community Collaboration	Consumer & Family member driven or influenced	Integrated Services

OBJECTIVES:

1. Review and respond to pending legislation, proposed code language, regulatory, and judicial actions that diminishes or adversely affects MHSA programs and compromises the state mental health plan.
2. Inform a mental health system that incorporates public and private resources to offer community-based services that embrace recovery and wellness, and are strength-based, culturally competent, and cost-effective.
3. Develop talking points to use for education and commentary on mental health issues in the media.
4. Respond to and partner with Consumer agencies and family member organizations to support their activities when needed.

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Roles and Responsibilities:

Regular attendance of committee members is expected in order for the Committee to function effectively. If a committee has difficulty achieving a quorum due to the continued absence of a committee member, the committee chairperson will discuss with the member the reasons for his or her absence. If the problem persists, the committee chair can request that the Executive Committee remove the member from the committee.

Members are expected to serve as advocates for the committee's charge, and as such, could include, but are not limited to:

- Attend meetings
- Speak when authorizes at relevant conferences and summits when requested by the committee or the Planning Council
- Participate in the development products such as white papers, opinion papers, and other documents
- Distribute the committee's white papers and opinion papers to their represented communities and organizations
- Assist in identifying speakers for presentations

Materials will be distributed as far in advance as possible in order to allow time for review before the meetings. Members are expected to come prepared in order to ensure effective meeting outcomes.

Membership:

NAME
Barbara Mitchell, Co-Chair
Gail Nickerson, Co-Chair
Cindy Claflin
Caron Collins
Nadine Ford
Adam Nelson MD
John Ryan
Daphne Shaw
Stephanie Thal, MFT
Chloe Walker
Monica Wilson
Sandra Worthom
Staff: Andi Murphy *(916) 440-7813* *andi.murphy@cmhpc.ca.gov*

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General Principles of Collaboration:

The following general operating principles are proposed to guide the committee's deliberations:

- The committee's mission will be best achieved by relationships among the members characterized by mutual trust, responsiveness, flexibility, and open communication.
- It is the responsibility of all members to work toward the committee's common goals.
- To that end, members will:
    - Commit to expending the time, energy and organizational resources necessary to carry out the committee's mission
    - Be prepared to listen intently to the concerns of others and identify the interests represented
    - Ask questions and seek clarification to ensure they fully understand other's interests, concerns and comments
    - Regard disagreements as problems to be solved rather than battles to be won
    - Be prepared to "think outside the box" and develop creative solutions to address the many interests that will be raised throughout the Committee's deliberations

Decision Making:
The Committee will work to find common ground on issues and strive to seek consensus on all key issues. Every effort will be made to reach consensus, and opposing views will be explained. In situations where there are strongly divergent views, members may choose to present multiple recommendations on the same topic. If the Committee is unable to reach consensus on key issues, decisions will be made by majority vote. Minority views will be included in the meeting highlights.

Meeting Protocols:
The Committee's decisions and activities will be captured in a highlights document, briefly summarizing the discussion and outlining key outcomes during the meeting. Viewpoints will be recorded, but not be attributed to a specific member. The meeting highlights will be distributed to the Committee within one month following the meeting. Members will review and approve the previous meeting's highlights at the beginning of the following meeting.

Media Inquiries:
In the event the Committee is contacted by the press, the Chairperson will refer the request the CMHPC's Executive Officer.