



Patients' Rights Committee Charter

Overview

The California Mental Health Planning Council (CMHPC) is mandated by federal and state statute to advocate for children with serious emotional disturbances and adults and older adults with serious mental illness, to provide oversight and accountability for the public mental health system, and to advise the Governor and the Legislature on priority issues and participate in statewide planning.

Purpose

The purpose of the Patients' Rights Committee (PRC) is to monitor, review, evaluate, and recommend improvements in the protection and upholding of patients' rights to receive effective, timely, and humane treatment in a public mental health system in California. Each patient should be afforded the opportunity to receive excellent mental health care or the option to decline care if appropriate.

Mandate

California Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 5514

5514. There shall be a five-person Patients' Rights Committee formed through the California Mental Health Planning Council. This committee, supplemented by two ad hoc members appointed by the chairperson of the committee, shall advise the Director of Health Care Services and the Director of State Hospitals regarding department policies and practices that affect patients' rights. The committee shall also review the advocacy and patients' rights components of each county mental health plan or performance contract and advise the Director of Health Care Services and the Director of State Hospitals concerning the adequacy of each plan or performance contract in protecting patients' rights. The ad hoc members of the committee shall be persons with

substantial experience in establishing and providing independent advocacy services to recipients of mental health services

The committee is made up of a chair-person, vice chair-person, and members. Currently the committee consists of the following individuals.

Patients' Rights Committee

Name
Carmen Lee
Adam Nelson MD
Walter Shwe
Cindy Claflin – Vice-Chairperson
Daphne Shaw - Chairperson
Ad-hoc Dan Brzovic
Ad-hoc Richard Krzyzanowski
Michael Gardner Staff