



Duties, Responsibilities and Composition of the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC)

Duties and Responsibilities:

The role of the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) is to ensure that services provided pursuant to the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) are cost effective and provided in accordance with recommended best practices subject to local and state oversight. The MHSOAC will ensure accountability to taxpayers and to the public.

The MHSOAC also:

- Was created to “oversee” the adult and children’s systems of care provisions created in the MHSA
- Is authorized to meet, establish committees and employ staff
- Is authorized to develop strategies to overcome stigma, and is specifically asked to focus on the prevention and innovation portions of the MHSA
- Is authorized to advise the Governor or the Legislature on issues related to mental illness
- May refer any critical issues related to county performance to the Department of Mental Health (DMH).

The MHSOAC shall ensure that the perspective and participation of members and others suffering from severe mental illness and their family members is a significant factor in all of its decisions and recommendations.

The MHSOAC will meet at least once each quarter at a time and location convenient to the public. All meetings of the MHSOAC will be open to the public.

Composition:

The MHSOAC shall consist of 16 voting members as follows:

- The Attorney General or his or her designee
- The Superintendent of Public Instruction or his or her designee

- The Chairperson of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee or another member of the Senate selected by the President pro Tempore of the Senate
- The Chairperson of the Assembly Health Committee or another member of the Assembly selected by the Speaker of the Assembly
- Two persons with a severe mental illness
- A family member of an adult or senior with a severe mental illness
- A family member of a child who has or has had a severe mental illness
- A physician specializing in alcohol and drug treatment
- A mental health professional
- A county Sheriff
- A Superintendent of a school district
- A representative of a labor organization
- A representative of an employer with less than 500 employees
- A representative of an employer with more than 500 employees
- A representative of a health care services plan or insurer

All but the first four positions listed above are appointed by the Governor. According to the MHSA, in making the 12 appointments to the MHSOAC, the Governor shall seek individuals who have had personal or family experience with mental illness.

Members serve without compensation, but are reimbursed for all actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

The term of each member shall be three years, to be staggered so that approximately one-third of the appointments expire in each year.