

# Legislation & Public Policy Committee Charter

The California Behavioral Health Planning Council is mandated by federal and state statutes to advocate for children with serious emotional disturbance and their families and for adults and older adults with serious mental illness; to review and report on outcomes for the public mental health system; and to advise the Department of Health Care Services and the Legislature on policies and priorities the state should pursue in developing its mental health and substance use disorder systems.

**Council Mission Statement:** To review, evaluate and advocate for an accessible and effective behavioral health system.

**Council Vision Statement:** A behavioral health system that makes it possible for individuals to lead full and purposeful lives.

## COMMITTEE OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE

---

The purpose of the Legislative Committee is to address public issues impacting the effectiveness of the state's behavioral health programs and quality of life for persons who are dually diagnosed with serious mental illness/emotional disturbance and substance use disorders. This includes increasing public behavioral 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 CBHPC Policy Platform.

## MANDATES

---

CA Welfare and Institutions Code Sections:

**5772.** The California Behavioral 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 behavioral health programs.
- (e) To advise the Legislature, the State Department of Health Care Services, and county boards on behavioral health issues and the policies and priorities that this state should be pursuing in developing its behavioral health system.
- (j) To advise the Director of Health Care Services on the development of the state mental health plan and the behavioral health system of priorities contained in that plan.

(k) To assess periodically the effect of the realignment of mental health services and any other important changes in the state's behavioral 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. (f) To periodically review the state's data systems and paperwork requirements to ensure that they are reasonable and in compliance with state and federal law.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

---

The work of the Council and the Legislation Committee will promote, reflect and embody the following guiding principles:

- Wellness and Recovery
- Resiliency across the Lifespan
- Advocacy and Education
- Consumer and Family Voice
- Cultural Humility and Responsiveness
- Parity and System Accountability

## GENERAL COMMITTEE OPERATIONS

---

### MEETING TIMES

The Legislation & Public Policy Committee will meet in-person four times a year, rotating locations in conjunction with the Full Council meetings. At these meetings, the committee meets on Wednesday afternoon from 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm. Meetings, by Zoom, occur as needed, in the months between in-person meetings.

### LEGISLATION COMMITTEE MEMBER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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

The Legislation Committee Chairperson and Chair-Elect will be nominated by the committee members and appointed by the CBHPC Officer Team. In the Chairperson's absence the Chair-Elect will serve as the Chairperson. The Chairperson and Chair-Elect serve on the Executive Committee which requires attendance and participation in those meetings in addition to the Legislation Committee meetings. Terms of 1 year will

begin with the January in-person meeting and end with the last meeting of the calendar year.

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

- Attend meetings and provide input
- Review meeting materials prior to meetings in order to ensure effective meeting outcomes
- Speak at relevant conferences and summits when requested by the Committee Officers
- Develop 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

## STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

Staff will capture the Legislation Committee member's decisions and activities in a document, briefly summarizing the discussion and outlining key outcomes during the meeting. The meeting summary will be distributed to the committee members prior to the next quarterly meeting. Members will review and approve the previous meeting's summary at the following meeting.

Staff will prepare the meeting agendas and materials, including coordinating presenters, at the direction of Legislation Committee Chairperson and members. The meeting agenda and materials will be made available to committee members, in hardcopy and/or electronically, not less than 10 calendar days prior to the meeting.

## GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF COLLABORATION

The following general operating principles are established to guide the Committee's deliberations:

- The Committee's purpose 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 Council's vision.
- To that end, members will:
  - Commit to expending the time, energy and organizational resources necessary to carry out the Committee's Work Plan
  - 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 develop creative solutions to address the many interests that will be raised throughout the Committee's deliberations

Committee members 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 summary.

## MEMBERS

---

**CHAIRPERSON: VERONICA KELLEY    CHAIR-ELECT: BARBARA MITCHELL**

Karen Baylor	Javier Moreno	Joanna Rodriguez
Stephanie Blake	Noel O'Neill	Daphne Shaw
Monica Caffey	Liz Oseguera	Deborah Starkey
Erin Franco	Vandana Pant	Tony Vartan
Steve Leoni	Darlene Prettyman	Susan Wilson
Catherine Moore	Marina Rangel	Uma Zykovsky

## STAFF

Naomi Ramirez  
[Naomi.Ramirez@cbhpc.dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Naomi.Ramirez@cbhpc.dhcs.ca.gov)  
 (916) 750-4606