

From: [Mandy Taylor](#)
To: [MHSOAC](#)
Subject: Today's Public Comment
Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020 9:43:24 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[4.23.20 MHSOAC Meeting Public Comments - CA LGBTQ HHS Network.pdf](#)

Hi,

Per Commissioner Ashbeck's request, here is the text of my public comment this morning:

*We are the organization to whom the MHSOAC intends to award the LGBTQ Stakeholder Advocacy Contract. Since the intent to award was announced, we have made public comment several times during commission meetings and spoken with staff, requesting that the MHSOAC change the annual budget distributions to the fifteen Local Level Entities in order to better support equity and resources for our local partners. **The requested changes would not change the overall amount of the grant or the scope of work, they only change the way in which funding is distributed to our local level partners across the three years.***

During Agenda Item #2 Budget and #5 ED Report Out, we urge the commissioners to explicitly authorize MHSOAC staff to make the following changes to the proposed contract based on feedback provided by our local partners:

- 1. Change the direct pass through funding for Local Level Entities to be the same for all fifteen organizations across all three years.*
- 2. Move \$65k from Year 3 to Year 1 in order to allow for the more equitable distribution of funding and participation in technical assistance.*

The prospective contract start date is July 1st but we have not yet received a contract to review and are unsure whether this request has been approved. The budget worksheet included with the RFP provides disparate funding to under-resourced local organizations, with some receiving \$30k over three years while others would receive \$56k over three years. Additionally, it allows some organizations to only participate and receive technical support and funding for one year while others receive funding and technical support all three years.

I have also attached my public comment from April's meeting which offers more details regarding our request.

Warm Regards,

Mandy Taylor, MSW (*she/her/hers*)

Outreach and Advocacy Coordinator
California LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network
A project of Health Access
O: (916) 497-0923 ext. 814



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April 24, 2020

California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission
1325 J Street, Suite 1700
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: MHSOAC April Meeting, Written Public Comment

Dear Commissioners:

Due to the time constraints of the first virtual MHSOAC meeting on April 23rd, we are submitting our public comment in writing per Chair Ashbeck's request.

First, we want to thank the staff at the MHSOAC for taking the time to speak with us this month and supporting current Stakeholder Advocates with modifying deliverables to meet the spirit of the project while honoring public health concerns.

We are excited about moving forward with the Cycle 2 Stakeholder Advocacy awards and having the opportunity to sign the contract once MHSOAC staff has capacity to draft it. To that end, we wanted to follow up with a concern and request we posed during the February MHSOAC meeting when the Stakeholder Advocacy Contracts 'Intent to Award' was announced.

Concern: Current RFP Budget Distribution does not equitably allow for local organizations to participate, receive technical assistance, or be funded equally. The timeline requires small local level entities to commit to a Scope of Work for which they may have to wait until 2021 or 2022 to start activities or be funded to do tasks. The current distribution supports five Local Level Entities (LLEs) the first year (leaving out ten), supports ten LLEs the second year (leaving out five), and all fifteen in the third year. This leaves the second and third year cohorts with a much shorter amount of time to develop and enact an advocacy strategy.

Request: Health Access Foundation and our partnering Local Level Entities are requesting that, as the Cycle 2 contracts are being drafted, MHSOAC staff be authorized to modify grant budget distribution to allow each local organization to receive the same level of support and engagement for all three years. The overall amount of funding for the grant would stay the same, only distribution would change. This would allow all fifteen LLEs to engage in mental health advocacy fully for all three years. While we realize this will increase the amount of work done by the California LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network (Health Access Foundation) to support all fifteen LLEs during all three years, we believe (based on feedback from the LLEs), that it is vital our local community partners receive equitable access to resources.

The chart below details the requested modifications:

Current MHSOAC RFP Budget Distribution

LLE Cohort	Year One		Year Two		Year Three		LLE 3 Year Total
	Task Force	Event	Task Force	Event	Task Force	Event	
Cohort #1	13k	17k	13k	0	13k	0	56k
Cohort #2	0	0	13k	17k	13k	0	43k
Cohort #3	0	0	0	0	13k	17k	30k
Each Cohort Total x 5	150k		215k		280k		<- Annual Budget

*Five new task forces start each year, the other orgs are not involved until their cohort year starts.

HAF and LLEs Requested Budget Distribution

LLE Cohort	Year One		Year Two		Year Three		LLE 3 Year Total
	Task Force	Event	Task Force	Event	Task Force	Event	
Cohort #1	13k	4k	13k	0	13k	0	43k
Cohort #2	13k	0	13k	4k	13k	0	43k
Cohort #3	13k	0	13k	0	13k	4k	43k
Each Cohort Total x 5	215k		215k		215k		<- Annual Budget

*All fifteen task forces start in year one. Would require MHSOAC to move \$65k from year three to year one.

- 1) **Requesting** to distribute Local Level Entity funding in a more equitable way within each year.
- 2) **Requesting** to move \$65,000 from year three to year one in order to allow for equitable funding to all fifteen Local Level Entities across all three years.

We look forward to further collaboration with the commission. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mandy Taylor at mtaylor@health-access.org or me at awallner@health-access.org or (916) 497-0923.

Sincerely,



Amanda McAllister - Wallner, MPP

Director, California LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network

From: [Mandy Taylor](#)
To: [MHSOAC](#)
Subject: Feedback
Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020 10:29:06 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi,

The chat function on Zoom is disabled. Can you please pass on my thanks to Chair Ashbeck for her responsiveness, willingness to hear community feedback, and adapting the meeting process accordingly.

Thank you,

Mandy Taylor, MSW (*she/her/hers*)

Outreach and Advocacy Coordinator

California LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network

A project of Health Access

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MHSOAC Director Toby Ewing and the MHSOAC Commissioners,

Good morning, my name is Carol West. I am an individual with lived experience as a mental health client, and I am an ACCESS Ambassador that represents individuals receiving public mental health services in Greater Bay Area – Sonoma County.

On June 3rd the MHSOAC rejected Cal Voices protest and is upholding the award of the 2020-2023 Client/Consumer Stakeholder Advocacy contract to another agency.

I am requesting that the MHSOAC's Executive Director use his contract authority under 2.4 of the [Rules of Procedure](#) to enter into a contract in the amount of \$100,000 with Cal Voices to continue the important work of the ACCESS Ambassador program.

Over the past three years ACCESS Ambassadors have worked diligently to expand local and statewide advocacy through individual and community empowerment

- ACCESS ambassador boot camp is where I learned about the details of the MHSA and the importance of the Community Participation Process
- Due to severe budget cuts in our county the SCBH department had some difficult choices to make about what services to keep and where to make drastic cuts to essential services. CPP process is seen as a nice to do not a have to do and zero dollars were allocated to this process.
- Becoming an ACCESS Ambassador has given me the confidence to apply for and be appointed to our local MHB where I advocate for the importance of the peer/consumer voice in policy and budget allocation decisions
- While I am a new recruit this year to the ACCESS ambassador program, I have been impressed with the level of dedicated professionalism that CalVoices staff has demonstrated in managing the many moving parts and differing local needs of individual peer advocates across the five regions.
- Coming from a relatively small county I have benefited immensely from the interactions with other peer advocates and would most definitely miss those connections should the ACCESS program be terminated.
- I appreciate that over three years CalVoices has grown the number of peer advocates that have been trained in advocacy skills and each advocate has made a myriad of connections/ relationships in their own right, all of which has taken time, hard work and

ACCESS California is a program of Cal Voices funded by the California Mental Health Services Act (Prop 63) and by the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC)

persistence. Please do not let these great advocacy resources go to waste by denying their life line funding.

- I count on the ACCESS staff expertise and other ambassadors real life experience as an essential source of feedback and resources when planning and implementing local advocacy efforts in Sonoma County.
- I pass this information forward to local Sonoma County peers through the Sonoma County Peer Council for discussion and planning advocacy action.
- It was the ACCESS Ambassador program that gave me the tools I needed and the confidence to facilitate the formation of this local advocacy council

<https://sonomacountypeercouncil.org/>

Again, I urge the Commission and Director Toby Ewing to use his contract authority under 2.4 of the [Rules of Procedure](#) to enter into a contract in the amount of \$100,000 with Cal Voices to continue the important work of the ACCESS Ambassador program.

Please give ACCESS Ambassadors the opportunity to maintain a network of subject matter experts throughout CA to provide ongoing guidance on MHSA policies and programs and allow us to continue to conduct local-level advocacy in our local communities.

Thank you, Commissioners, for your time and consideration,

Carol West



Petaluma, Sonoma County, CA
6.11.2020

Hello Commissioners,

I'm writing to follow up on the public statement I made at today's MHSOAC meeting. Again, I write as an ACCESS Ambassador who has received public mental health services and I represent people receiving public mental health care in Santa Clara County.

As my colleagues and I requested today, we ask that Toby Ewing, as MHSOAC's Executive Director use his contract authority under 2.4 of the [Rules of Procedure](#) to enter into a contract in the amount of \$100,000 with Cal Voices to continue the important work of the ACCESS Ambassador program.

Because of my involvement with ACCESS, I formed a group of advocates that meets regularly with the COO of Valley Medical Center to improve patient treatment at County inpatient psychiatric facilities, we won five more consumer seats on our MHA steering committee, and I trained public mental health clients who spoke up at our Board of Supervisors meetings regarding services that impact them and our local community. The discussions with our Valley Medical Center COO may result in use of peer support for patients in inpatients psychiatric facilities making their experience less traumatic and likely to cause patients to be more open to mental health treatment.

Something I didn't say this morning may or may not influence your decision, but I will go ahead and share. That is, because of the training, encouragement, and support I received from ACCESS staff and my fellow Ambassadors, I've been able to live out my spiritual calling. Tikkun Olam, a saying from Judaism, means that it is our duty to partner with God to repair our broken world. As an ACCESS Ambassador, I'm empowered to do this. I am grateful for having been able to do so effectively due to the support and training I receive through the ACCESS Ambassador program.

Thank you for your time and consideration,



Lorraine Zeller

ACCESS California is a program of NorCal MHA funded by the California Mental Health Services Act (Prop 63) and by the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC)

From: [Bill Floyd](#)
To: [MHSOAC](#)
Subject: Public statement for MASOAC meeting 06/11/2020
Date: Friday, June 12, 2020 11:20:22 AM

Statement to MHSOAC

My name is Bill Floyd, I am from Modesto California Stanislaus County. I am program coordinator for Peer Recovery Art Project, and an Access ambassador with Cal Voices.

I would like to thank the OAC board members for reading and considering my statement at this time.

I am concerned with the fact that Access, A program of Cal Voices did not get awarded a new three year contract.

I have been an ambassador with Cal Voices going on three years. I represent the central valley.

During my time as an ambassador, the program has achieved many successes, and in a authentic way, has represented the Peer voice and stakeholder concerns, when advocating at all levels.

When attending local board meetings, State wide board meetings, and stakeholder meetings, we here of the need for authentic, genuine, stakeholder involvement.

The access program of Cal Voices relies on The skills, knowledge, and expertise, of peers with genuine lived experience to represent a true stakeholder involvement!

What I am asking the board at this time is to consider the ways in which applicants that where applying for the contract were scored, and the way the scoring process was changed, to result in the decision that has been made.

I would like to thank the board at this time for taking the time to read this statement and consider it.

Sent from my iPhone

MHSOAC General Public Comment 6/11/20

Good morning, my name is Pamela Inaba. I have lived experience as a mental health client, and I am an ACCESS Ambassador that represents people receiving public mental health services in Los Angeles County.

On June 3rd the MHSOAC rejected Cal Voices protest and is granting the award of the 2020-2023 Client/Consumer Stakeholder Advocacy contract to another agency.

I am requesting that MHSOAC's Executive Director use his contract authority under 2.4 of the Rules of Procedure to enter into a contract in the amount of \$100,000 with Cal Voices to continue the ACCESS Ambassador program's important work.

Over the past three years ACCESS Ambassadors have worked diligently to expand local and statewide advocacy through individual and community empowerment. Ambassadors have been getting consumers to attend and advocate at the Mental Health Commission meetings and to become engaged in the Underserved Cultural Committees.

Again, I urge the Commission and Director Toby Ewing to use his contract authority under 2.4 of the Roles of Procedure to enter into a contract for \$100,000 with Cal Voices to continue the important work of the Access Ambassador program.

Please give ACCESS Ambassadors the opportunity to maintain a network of subject matter experts throughout California to provide ongoing guidance on MHSA policies and

programs and allow us to continue to conduct local-level advocacy in our local communities.

Thank you, Commissioners, for your time and consideration,

Pamela Inaba