

MHSA: 3-YEAR PLANS, ANNUAL UPDATES, INNOVATIONS PLANS

The role of the Mental Health Board (MHB) is multi-faceted in relation to the local Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). The MHSA law requires counties demonstrate a partnership with constituents and stakeholders throughout the process, including meaningful stakeholder involvement in mental health policy, program planning and implementation, monitoring, quality improvement, evaluation, and budget allocations.

Facilitated by County Mental Health/Behavioral Health Department Staff, Community Program Planning (CPP) is the MHSA mandate for the involvement of the public in identifying local funding priorities and ensures that a meaningful stakeholder process guides the planning of the programs under the MHSA components. This is an ongoing inclusive stakeholder process involving consumers, families, caregivers and partner agencies to identify community issues related to mental illness resulting from gaps in community services and support, and stigma and discrimination. The CPP process is used to assess the current capacity, define the populations to be served, and determine the strategies for providing effective services. From this process, the MHSA work plan is developed.

ASSURE CITIZEN AND PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

Members of the MHB may be involved throughout the process by assuring stakeholders are involved in the CPP process through attending focus groups/stakeholder meetings held in preparation for developing and writing the Three-Year Plans, Annual Updates and Innovations Plans.

REVIEW AND ADVISE

The review and analysis of the MHSA Three-Year Plans, Annual Updates and Innovations Plans can be major undertakings for MHBs. The Plan documents are lengthy and complex (including program descriptions, populations served, penetration rates, charts, graphs, and fiscal documents). Processes for review and comment by MHBs vary, including:

1. Dividing up sections of the document by small workgroups (ad hocs), who then report on their section to the MHB (Demographics, Community Services and Supports, Capital Facilities and Technological Needs, Education and Training, Prevention and Early Intervention and Innovative Programs)
2. Convening a single ad hoc committee to work collaboratively on the document
3. Review and comment by individual members of the entire MHB.
4. Agendizing presentation(s) by County MH/BH Staff to explain the major components of the documents, and take questions.

CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Hearing on the Three-Year MHSA Plan can take place following the 30-day public review period during a regularly scheduled MHB meeting, with 72-hour notice to the public and inclusion on the MHB published agenda. Identifying and inviting stakeholders (consumers, family members, law enforcement, school officials, college board members/staff, etc.) to the public hearing can increase engagement and accountability in this public process.

The entire process is educational and extremely beneficial, especially to new board members not familiar with County services. Every County uses a different review process, and be assured, input from MHB members is valued by MHSA staff. This is an important MHB function and thus, should be included in the MHB work plan (via the Annual Goal Setting, or Strategic Plan, and/or Action Plan.)

For more information on the MHSA: [Basics of the Mental Health Services Act \(MHSA\): CA Association of Mental Health peer Run Organizations](#)