



AGENDA ITEM 16

Information

Advocacy Overview and Strategy

Item Goals

- To provide an overview of the Commission's Advocacy program and outline considerations for future advocacy work under the Behavioral Health Services Act.

Behavioral Health Landscape

- Advocacy programs originated from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), which prioritized transparent and collaborative processes to determine the mental health needs, priorities, and services for specific populations.
- The MHSA promoted stakeholder engagement, with the goal of informing local and state level policies. Additionally, it prioritized a focus on delivering support in advocacy, training and education, and outreach and engagement for populations identified as underserved by current systems.
- Over time, the Commission, supported by the Legislature, has identified additional populations and funding to support advocacy, culminating in the current populations of Consumers, Families, Parents and Caregivers, Veterans, Diverse Racial and Ethnic Communities, Immigrants and Refugees, Transition Aged Youth, LGBTQIA+, and K-12 Students.

Relevant Commission Work

- The Commission, as authorized by the State Legislature, oversees funding to community-based organizations to support the behavioral health needs of nine specific underserved populations through advocacy, training and education, and outreach and engagement activities.