Strengthening MHSA’s Vision for Stakeholder Involvement with Peers

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About Me

- My name
- My role at ACCESS California/NorCal MHA
- How long I have been employed at NorCal MHA
- Why I work in the mental health field

About NorCal MHA

- Founded in 1946
- Oldest consumer advocacy agency in Northern California
- Peer-run organization that specifically hires people with lived experience
About ACCESS

ACCESS is a program of NorCal MHA, is a consumer led stakeholder advocacy program funded by the California Mental Health Services Act (MHSA/Prop 63) and the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC).

What is ACCESS?

ACCESS stands for:
- Advancing
- Client and
- Community
- Empowerment through
- Sustainable
- Solutions

Our Values

- ADVOCACY
- RECOVERY
- PEER SUPPORT
What ACCESS Does

- RESEARCH
- ADVOCACY
- EDUCATION
- ENGAGEMENT

Today We’ll Learn About

1. Requirements and intentions of the MHSA stakeholder process
2. How the peer workforce can expand opportunities for systems advocacy
3. Reflections on current and potential opportunities for stakeholder involvement

Making the MHSA’s Vision for Stakeholder Involvement a Reality

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Part 1
Requirements and intentions of the MHSA stakeholder process

Mental Health Services Act

- Voter initiative passed in November 2004; took effect in January 2005
- Created additional funding and resources for the public mental health system
- Sought to transform the system through:
  - Expansion of services
  - Improved continuum and integration of care

General Standards

1. Community Collaboration (9 CCR §3200.060)
2. Cultural Competence (9 CCR §3200.100)
3. Client-Driven (9 CCR §3200.050)
4. Family-Driven (9 CCR §3200.120)
5. Wellness, Recovery, and Resiliency (WIC § 5813.5(d))
6. Integrated Service Experience (9 CCR §3200.190)

Handout: MHSA Essential Elements
MHSA Stakeholder Requirements & Intentions

MHSA requires counties to preside over a local community planning process that:

- Ensures stakeholders have an opportunity to participate
- Includes representatives of unserved and/or underserved populations
- Outreaches to clients with serious mental illness and their families to ensure participation
- Offers training, as needed, to stakeholders who are participating in the Planning Process

Discussion Slide

- How are stakeholders and peers staff currently being utilized in the county’s community program planning process?
- Do they approve the plans or are they involved in developing plans?

Part 2

How the peer workforce can expand opportunities for systems advocacy
Core Competencies for Peers

- Developed in 2015 by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Core Competencies provide the first guidance for Peer workers
- Core Competencies...
  - Enhance capacity to perform role
  - Describe knowledge, skills and attitudes

Advocacy is a Core Competency

Peer Support Workers:
- Use knowledge of relevant rights and laws to ensure that peer’s rights are respected
- Advocate for the needs of peers in treatment meetings, community services, living situations, and with family
- Use knowledge of legal resources and advocacy organization to build an advocacy plan
- Make efforts to eliminate prejudice and discrimination
- Educate about recovery and recovery support services
- Actively participate in efforts to improve the agency

Advocacy Roles

1. Moving Peers to Self-Advocacy: The Foundation of Recovery
2. Supporting Peers through Advocacy within Your Agency
3. Policy Advocacy: Supporting Change within the Agency through Recovery Values
Advocacy Goals

- Represent the needs of those we serve
- Encourage partnerships between the people who use services and the people who provide them
- Support recovery values

A Skilled Advocate is a Good Strategist

- What do you want to accomplish?
- What are the challenges?
- How can we get it done?
- Where do we start?
- What is the next step?
- Where can you go to accomplish your goals?
- Who has the power to make things happen?

Handout: Advocacy Worksheet

Supporting Local Advocacy

- Inform stakeholders of their rights
- Treat stakeholders as necessary and valued participants
- Respect individuals unique needs and empower them to take action
- Keep individuals informed about about mental health policy issues affecting them
- Identify opportunities, strategies, and access points for advocacy
- Provide key points, finding, recommendations, and talking points
Reflection

- How are peers currently utilized to expand opportunities for systems advocacy within their roles?
- Are there any missed opportunities for the peer workforce to provide input in your county?

Handout: Advocacy Opportunities

Part 3

Reflections on current and potential opportunities for stakeholder involvement

Public Mental Health System

California Mental Health Planning Council

Local Board of Supervisors

Local Behavioral Health Board

Local Dept. of Mental Health

MHSA Steering Committee

MHSA (Mental Health Services Act)

SWICS (Special Needs Integration Committee)

MHDOAC (Mental Health Director's Association of California)
Advocacy: Where?

Local
- Mental Health Board
- MHSA Steering Committee
- Cultural Competence Committee
- Schools and Higher Education
- Local Board of Supervisors

Statewide
- Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission - MHSOAC
- Department of Health Care Services - DHCS
- OSHPD
- CalMHSA
- State Legislature

Advocacy: When?

Phase 1: Gathering Information
Impact Medium
- Kick-off meeting, needs assessment, focus group, survey, key informant interview

Phase 2: Planning
Impact Highest
- MHSA Program Planning Advisory, Stakeholder Meeting, Strategy mind-mapping

Phase 3: Input on Proposed Plan
Impact Medium to Low
- Town Hall/Community meeting, public hearing, Mental Health Board

Phase 4: Final Approval
Impact Low
- Board of Supervisors has public meeting with public comment prior to vote

Phase 5: Publication of Final Result
Impact Low
- Posting of approved plan with budget, followed by a request for proposal (RFP)

Fostering Advocacy

In order to be successful in these efforts, local policy makers, providers, and the general public need:
- A deeper understanding of the MHSA planning process requirements
- Knowledge of other applicable mental health and open meeting laws
- Practical tips, recommendations, and best practices to expand stakeholder participation and inclusion
Reflection

- Identify current stakeholder opportunities that exist in your county.
- Are there any missed opportunities for stakeholder input in your county?
- Develop strategies that you, as the peer specialist, could use help a peer to overcome them.

Handout: Opportunities for Stakeholder Involvement worksheet

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