



Social Justice Advisory Committee Areas of Clarity/Consistency – Purpose, Authority and Accountability

Purpose:

Overall, the Social Justice Advisory Committee of CMHDA supports and assists CMHDA in decision and policy making that aims to reduce disparities in service access and care across diverse populations.

Ways in which this is accomplished:

1. Prioritizing and providing policy recommendations to CMHDA on interests and concerns related to:
 - a. Building equity to both access to and quality of mental health and co-occurring services and culturally effective supports for diverse populations;
 - b. Reducing the stigma and resulting discrimination associated with mental health and co-occurring disorders;
 - c. Addressing the disproportional representation of individuals with mental illness, particularly individuals with co-occurring disorders, in criminal justice and welfare systems;
2. Representing and communicating with leader, community members and advocates from diverse and broad community and system perspectives.
3. Exchanging knowledge and expertise between members of the Social Justice Advisory Committee and CMHDA.

Authority:

The Social Justice Advisory Committee advises, recommends and informs the decisions and policies of CMHDA. The Social Justice Advisory Committee may provide recommendations or represent viewpoints or perspectives that are not necessarily fully agreed to or adopted by CMHDA. Having different positions and perspectives is welcomed and respected.

Mechanisms of this role:

1. The Social Justice Advisory Committee is identified in the CMHDA bylaws.
2. The CMHDA Bylaws identify that the chair of the Social Justice Advisory Committee is a member of the CMHDA Executive Committee.
3. Through its advisory capacity, the Social Justice Advisory Committee provides a new, critical and diverse perspective that can only improve CMHDA's decisions and policies.

Accountability

To support the aims of the Social Justice Advisory Committee, members of the committee are expected to represent and be accountable to:

1. The unserved, underserved and inappropriately served diverse individuals, families and communities that experience disparities in access to -- and quality of -- public community mental health and co-occurring services.
2. The communities and individuals, organizations, associations and/or government systems that are represented by committee members.
3. The broad community of partners seeking mental health and wellness who exemplify the scope of voices that cannot be present on the Social Justice Advisory Committee.