



Behavioral Health Advisory Council

Bylaws

ARTICLE I

Name

1. The name of this unincorporated association shall be the Behavioral Health Advisory Council.

ARTICLE II

Function

1. The purpose of the Behavioral Health Advisory Council shall be to: (a) advise the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) concerning proposed and adopted plans affecting both mental health and substance use disorder services provided or coordinated by the State of Michigan and the implementation thereof; and (b) engage in advocacy external to the department regarding mental health and substance use disorder issues.
2. The Council's responsibilities as defined in the applicable federal law include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Improve the behavioral health outcomes (addressing both mental health and substance use disorders) of the people of the State of Michigan receiving behavioral health services.
 - b. Assist the Department of Health and Human Services in planning for community-based programs targeted to persons with behavioral health issues.
 - c. Advocate for improved services to persons with behavioral health problems.
 - d. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the applicable federal law.
 - e. Advise the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, other elements of the executive branch, the Legislature, and the general public as to service system needs for persons with behavioral health problems.
3. The Director of the Department of Health and Human Services may suggest additional areas of responsibilities to the Council.

ARTICLE III

Members

1. Members shall be appointed by the Director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services in accordance with the requirements of the applicable federal law.
2. Council member composition shall follow the guidelines set forth in the applicable federal law and any subsequent regulations pertaining to council membership.



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3. The Council shall have a maximum of 40 members.
 - a. More than 50% of the members shall be advocates or individuals who are or were service recipients or their family members.
 - b. Every effort shall be made to assure the composition of the Council reflects the social and demographic characteristics of Michigan's population.
4. Members shall be appointed for 2 year terms and may be re-appointed.
5. Each member may designate to the Department an alternate to represent the member at Council meetings. The officially designated alternates attending as representatives of members shall be given voting privileges at the Council meeting.
6. Attendance:
 - a. Members shall be excused by notifying the Council when unable to attend a scheduled meeting.
 - b. Absent members who do not provide notification to be excused from a meeting and do not send an alternate shall be noted as un-excused.
 - c. Monitoring and enforcing attendance requirements shall be a responsibility of the executive committee.
 - d. Two un-excused absences during a member's term shall trigger an interview of the member by the executive committee to determine the member's continued status on the Council
 - e. Three absences (excused or un-excused) during one year shall trigger an interview of the member by the Executive Committee to determine the member's status on the Council.
7. Vacancies: Vacancies on the Council shall be filled by appointment by the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services in accordance with the applicable federal law.
8. The department director may remove any member from the Council if the department director determines the member has not fulfilled his or her council responsibilities in a manner consistent with the Council's or department's best interests. If exercising this authority, the department director shall inform the removed member and the Council Chairperson of the reason(s) supporting such action.



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ARTICLE IV

Officers

1. The Council shall use the calendar year for appointments and terms of officers. Officers serve for one calendar year. The officers of the Council shall consist of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary, who shall be elected by the Council.
2. Officers shall be members of the Council.
2. The Chairperson shall be responsible for conducting the meetings. The Chairperson shall be an ex-officio member of all committees formed by the Council. As the ex-officio member the Chairperson shall have no voting rights in said committees. The Chairperson shall serve for a 1 year term with a maximum of 3 consecutive terms.
4. The Vice-Chairperson shall act in the absence of the chair. The Vice-Chairperson shall serve for a 1 year term with a maximum of 3 consecutive terms.
5. The Secretary shall be responsible for assuring that minutes are recorded, recording attendance, and working with the other officers. The recording secretary shall serve for a 1 year term with the maximum of 3 consecutive terms.
6. Vacancies among officers: A vacancy shall exist when an officer resigns from the office held or ceases to be a member of the Council. In the event the position of the Chairperson becomes vacant, the Vice-Chairperson shall perform the duties and exercise the powers of the Chairperson for the remainder of the term. The Council shall fill vacancies in the offices of Vice-Chairperson and Recording Secretary for the remainder of the term.
7. Nominations shall be submitted to the Council for specific officer positions. Individuals can nominate themselves as well as any other member of the Council. Those who are nominated have the opportunity to decline such nomination. Nominees may vote in election of officers.

ARTICLE V

Meetings

1. The regular meetings of the Council will occur no less than 4 times per calendar year.
2. Notice of the dates, time, location, and agenda of regular meetings of the Council shall be distributed in accordance with the Open Meetings ACT (P.A. 267 of 1976). In addition, notice of dates, time, location, and agenda of regular meetings shall be posted publicly at least 3 days prior to any meeting of the Council.



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3. The Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, Council Chairperson or a minimum of 6 members may call a special meeting of the Council as necessary.
4. A quorum shall be more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the number of members serving on the Council at the time of the vote.
5. Council action is determined by a majority vote. A majority vote is defined as a majority of those members present.
6. The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of all meetings.
7. Members of the Council or any Council committee may participate in a meeting of the Council or a committee by means of conference telephone or similar communications equipment by which all persons participating in the meeting can communicate with each other. Participation in a meeting pursuant to this provision shall constitute presence at such meeting and carry voting privileges.

ARTICLE VI

Executive Committee

1. The Council's Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Recording Secretary, and immediate past Chairperson, if still a Council member. If none of the described positions includes an advocate, a current or former service recipient, or the family member of a recipient, then such a member will be added to the Executive Committee as a Member at Large through the same nomination and election process used for Council Officers
2. The Executive Committee may draft and finalize letters and communications on behalf of the Council as directed by the Council.
3. The Executive Committee members may represent the Council in meetings with state and federal government officials within the scope of the Council's business. The Executive Committee may act on behalf of the Council when it is in the Council's best interests to do so. Any action by the Executive Committee shall be subject to subsequent ratification by the Council.
4. Any other duties, tasks, or responsibilities assigned to the Executive Committee shall be delegated by official Council action at a Council meeting.



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ARTICLE VII

Committees/Workgroups

1. The Council or its Chairperson may create special committees/workgroups for a specific period of time. The Council Chairperson shall designate the members of a special committee/workgroup and assure each committee/workgroup has representation from at least one primary consumer, and at least one family member of an adult with serious mental illness or substance use disorder, or one parent/caregiver of a minor with serious emotional disturbance or substance use disorder. The nature of the committee shall dictate the type of consumer/family member representation that is needed. The Council Chairperson may serve as the committee chair or designate a committee chairperson.
2. The scope and tenure of special committees shall terminate when the designated period of time has lapsed or the task is completed.
3. Special committees shall report on the committee's work to the Council. The establishment and dissolution of special committees shall be noted in the Council minutes.
4. A special committee may request the invitation of technical resource persons to provide information and answer questions, or the Council Chairperson may appoint persons outside the Council to serve on a committee.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendments

1. These bylaws shall be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Council at a regularly scheduled meeting following a 30-day review period of the proposed amendments.
2. A committee of the Council shall review these bylaws not less than every four years.
3. These bylaws were last amended by the Behavioral Health Advisory Council at its regular meeting held on November 17, 2017.