

SONOMA COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD: MY NOTES/THOUGHTS ON ISSUES FOR 2023

BOARD DEVELOPMENT: Building a stronger, more effective board

- Encourage consistent attendance by board members
- Encourage Board of Supervisors members to consider diversity in their District when appointing new members
- Restructure meetings to encourage conversation/discussion on issues
- Consider agenda items that encourage participation by stakeholders/providers that represent their particular interests.
- Establish a relationship with the Patient Rights Advocates in the County to learn more about their work and to support their work.
- Establish a relationship with local programs of special interest and acknowledge their success. This might include asking them to make a presentation to your board and then inviting yourselves to visit the facility. It might include arranging tours of different programs/facilities of special interest.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS (BOS):

- Board members meet regularly (as yet undefined) with their appointing BOS District Supervisor/staff
- Board submits and presents the Annual Report (information to be determined) to reflect the work of the Board
- Board submits and presents the Data Notebook (DN), when completed by the Board/staff. to reflect the work of the Board; this may be particularly important this year as the theme of the DN is "stakeholders".
- Board supports the Mental Health Director in discussions with the BOS as appropriate. Specific topics mentioned included the use of peer specialists throughout the county, attention to issues of youth in the County, how they are currently served and what possible improvements might benefit the youth.

FOCUS ON THE ROLE OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES:

- Develop processes that solicit input from the individuals with lived experience, their families and the wide variety of service providers who work with them.
- Assure that stakeholders are welcome and accommodated as necessary at board meetings.
- Focus on the provisions in MHSA planning that require stakeholder input and assure that they are welcome and accommodated at all meetings.
- Become familiar with programs throughout Sonoma County.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST:

- Design Annual Report to meet your needs for reporting to the BOS
- Complete the Data Notebook as a Board in partnership with the department staff on a timely basis and submit to the CA Behavioral Health Planning Council AND present to the BOS