The MHSOAC is a 16-member commission created with the passage of the Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to provide oversight, accountability and leadership on issues related to mental health in collaboration with clients, family members, unserved and underserved communities and mental health partners. The Commission holds regular public meetings focused on a variety of issues that impact mental health services, including funding, client and family member involvement, cultural competency and reducing disparities, and evaluation of mental health programs. These meetings give Californians the opportunity to have their voices heard on mental health issues most important to them.

MHSOAC Membership
The Commissioners are appointed to three-year terms and receive no compensation. They represent a wide-range of sectors directly or indirectly involving mental health issues including:

- the Attorney General or designee
- the Superintendent of Public Instruction or designee
- the Chairperson of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee or another member of the Senate selected by the President pro Tempore of the Senate
- the Chairperson of the Assembly Health Committee or another member of the Assembly selected by the Speaker of the Assembly

Twelve (12) Commissioners are appointed by the Governor who is required to seek individuals who have had personal or family experience with mental illness:

- two persons with a severe mental illness
- a family member of an adult or senior with a severe mental illness
- a family member of a child who has or has had a severe mental illness
- a physician specializing in alcohol and drug treatment
- a mental health professional
- a county sheriff
- a superintendent of a school district
- a representative of a labor organization
- a representative of an employer with less than 500 employees
- a representative of an employer with more than 500 employees
- a representative of a health care services plan or insurer

Mission
The MHSOAC provides vision and leadership in collaboration with clients, their family members and underserved communities, to ensure Californians understand mental health is essential to overall health. The MHSOAC holds public mental health systems accountable and provides oversight for eliminating disparities, promotes mental wellness, recovery and resiliency, and ensures positive outcomes for individuals living with serious mental illness and their families.