



Recommended Proposed Outline of Request for Proposals (RFP) for Stakeholder Contracts

January 28, 2016 MHSOAC Commission Meeting

Overview

In November 2004, California voters passed Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). The passage of the MHSA initiated, at the state and local levels, the concept of transparent and collaborative processes being implemented to determine the mental health needs, priorities, and services for California mental health consumers.

Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code Section 5892(d) requires the Mental Health Services administrative fund to “include funds to assist consumers and family members to ensure the appropriate state and county agencies give full consideration to concerns about quality, structure of service delivery, or access to services.”

The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (OAC) oversees the activities of statewide stakeholder advocacy contracts funded under section 5892(d). These contracts, currently held by NAMI California, United Advocates for Children and Families (UACF), California Youth Empowerment Network (CAYEN), and California Association of Mental Health Peer Run Organizations (CAMHPRO) are focused on supporting the mental health needs of clients, consumers, children and youth, and transition aged youth and their families through education, advocacy, and outreach efforts.

These contracts, originally awarded on a sole source basis, were transferred to the OAC after the dissolution of the Department of Mental Health (DMH) in 2011. The OAC had previously administered small advocacy contracts with these organizations. When the OAC assumed management of the DMH contacts and their associated funds, contracts were then combined and the deliverables rewritten to reflect the goals of both contracts.

Budget Act 2015-2016

The fiscal year (FY) 2015/16 Budget Act included in the Commission’s budget, an additional \$1 million dollars, subject to revenue projections, to support mental health advocacy on behalf of youth, veterans, and racial and ethnic minorities to be awarded through a competitive process.

It was recommended during budget discussions with the Legislature that current sole source contracts also be awarded based on a competitive process beginning in

FY 2016/17. This process would include the release of RFPs for six contracts to conduct work focused on the following populations:

- Clients/Consumers
- Families of clients/consumers
- Children and Youth (under 18 years) and their parents/caregivers
- Transition Age Youth (ages 16-25 years)
- Veterans
- Diverse racial and ethnic communities/populations

Transition to the Competitive Bid Process

To prepare for the transition from sole source awards to a competitive bid process, OAC staff worked with an independent facilitator from the Center for Collaborative Policy to conduct interviews with current contractors, convene public groups meetings, and facilitate stakeholder discussions and activities. The facilitator met individually with each contract holder to gather feedback, which provided an opportunity for organizations to share lessons learned, highlight successes, and discuss challenges. Following these interviews, public group meetings were held, focusing on sharing information, gathering additional feedback, and organizing group discussions on potential opportunities and areas of need.

Recommended Outline

Below are the recommended principles, outline, and minimum qualifications proposed for work conducted through the stakeholder contracts.

Overall Principles

The RFPs and contracts are to reflect the following, previously approved, principles:

1. Contracts will be deliverable based.
2. Deliverables are aligned with the MHSA and the values of the OAC.
3. Deliverables are aligned with the OAC logic model.
4. Deliverables should predominately make an impact on the mental health system instead of at the individual level.
5. Contracts will provide for consumer outreach and support to ensure the perspective and participation of diverse community members reflective of California populations and others with lived experience are a significant factor in all of the OAC's decisions and recommendations as well as related decisions made by other state agencies.
6. Contracts will provide for outreach and support to contribute to a robust local stakeholder process.

Scope of Work

Contractors will be asked to develop deliverables in response to the scope of work as outlined in the RFPs. Activities are to be carried out within the scope of the to-be-awarded contracts in the following priority areas:

1. Advocacy

Advocacy is a key component to raising awareness on mental health issues and ensuring effective and necessary improvements in policy, legislation, and service delivery at the state and local level. The Contractors are to establish a strong presence and commit to engaging in all of California counties on behalf of the specific populations that they serve. These efforts should be enhanced with visits to both urban and rural communities, ensuring inclusion of unserved, underserved, and hard to reach populations.

2. Training and Education

Training and education efforts are to increase access and awareness of available services, increase understanding of local and state level policy and program development, and to support and enhance stakeholder involvement, specifically in the local Community Planning Process and Innovation Plan development at the county level. Contracts are to conduct training efforts to increase community awareness and understanding of mental health to recognize the importance of those with lived experience as active participants in community mental health planning and processes.

3. Outreach, Engagement, and Communication

Community engagement and outreach is a key component in providing necessary services and supports. Effective strategies and programs strengthen communities by providing communication regarding mental health services and programs to increase access and linkage to quality services and supports, reduce stigma and discrimination, as well as prevent or reduce the risk of onset of severe mental health problems.

Minimum Qualifications

The following minimum qualifications must be met for the proposal to be read and evaluated. All eligible bidders must:

1. Have evidence of capacity to provide statewide, county-level, and state-level participation;
2. Be a non-profit organization;
3. Have evidence of capacity to engage communities reflective of California's diverse population.

The recommended minimum qualifications for each population is as follows:

- Clients/Consumers: A statewide client/consumer-run organization with a board of directors and/or staff comprised of more than 51% clients/consumers.
- Families of clients/consumers: A statewide organization with a demonstrated ability to support the needs of families of clients/consumers.
- Children and Youth (under 18 years) and their parents/caregivers: A statewide family-run organization with a board of directors and/or staff comprised of more than 51% parents and/or caregivers who have raised or are currently raising a child in the mental health system.
- Transition Age Youth (ages 16-25 years): A statewide youth-run organization with a board of directors and/or staff comprised of more than 51% youth with experience in the public mental health system.
- Veterans: An established statewide organization with experience providing programs and services related to the unique mental health needs of California's veteran population.
- Diverse racial and ethnic communities/populations: An established statewide organization with experience providing programs and services related to achieving mental health equity for diverse racial and ethnic communities/populations and other vulnerable populations.

Funding

Historically, the amount allocated for stakeholder contracts has been a total of \$1,954,000 per year, distributed between the following four populations: clients/consumers, children and youth, transition aged youth, and families of clients/consumers.

The FY 2015/16 Budget Act included an addition of \$1,000,000 for youth, veterans, and racial and ethnic communities if the Department of Finance (DOF) determines that the funds are available. If funds are available, the total amount for stakeholder contracts would be \$2,954,000 per year, for a three year total of \$8,856,000. If the DOF determines that funds are not available, funding will remain at \$1,954,000 per year, for a three year total of \$5,862,000.

Given the uncertainty of available funds, the Commission will be asked to consider options for how to allocate funds between the designated stakeholder populations.