



MENTAL HEALTH POLICY FELLOWSHIP

PROJECT OVERVIEW



Background

Assembly Bill 1134 (Gloria), Chapter 412, Statutes of 2017 authorizes the Commission to establish a Mental Health Policy Fellowship for a mental health professional and a mental health consumer.

The Opportunity

The Commission seeks to expand mental health leadership through the establishment of two fellowships opportunities. The **Sally Zinman Consumer** and **Rusty Selix Mental Health Professional Fellows** will apply their expertise and background to all aspects of the Commission's work. At the same time, this Fellowship program

will serve to bolster the Commission's ties with the research community, mental health practitioners around the state, and the stakeholder community by bringing members of those communities into the Commission's staff for a year to work on policy projects. The Mental Health Services Act states that people with lived experience should be engaged in all aspects of decision-making regarding mental health policies and programs. Establishing the Fellowship allows the Commission to add to the strategies already in place to ensure the expertise of consumers and practitioners are embedded in the Commission's operations and work.



The Fellowships

The goal of the Commission’s Mental Health Policy Fellowship is to strengthen the Commission’s work by creating improved understanding and awareness of the Mental Health Services Act, and the Commission’s strategies to achieve the goals of the Act. The Commission will establish two paid, year-long, high-level policy fellowships for a mental health consumer and for a mental health professional to work with the Commission and Commission staff on the core work of the Commission, or on a project-by-project basis.

The Fellowship program established by the Commission seeks to:

- Expand opportunities for consumers and practitioners to inform the work of the Commission and public policy.
- Create professional opportunities for consumers and practitioners to be exposed to the policy process and the work of the Commission.
- Highlight the value of lived experience and experience in mental health practice in informing policy and the oversight and accountability work of the Commission.
- Enhance opportunities for the Commission to understand new and emerging challenges facing California’s mental health system through the lens of practitioners and persons with lived experience.

To reach the goals and to guide the Fellowship, the Commission will create an advisory committee to explore the following components:

- Establish eligibility criteria, application, and selection process.
- Develop branding, outreach, application dissemination and communication approach.
- Explore mentor and staffing support strategy for Fellows.
- Identify administrative practices for the Fellowship – compensation, health insurance, workers compensation insurance, reimbursement and other personnel and administrative needs.

The Commission intends to select new Fellows on an annual basis.