



April 24, 2020

California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission  
1325 J Street, Suite 1700  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: MHSOAC April Meeting, Written Public Comment

Dear Commissioners:

Due to the time constraints of the first virtual MHSOAC meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, we are submitting our public comment in writing per Chair Ashbeck's request.

First, we want to thank the staff at the MHSOAC for taking the time to speak with us this month and supporting current Stakeholder Advocates with modifying deliverables to meet the spirit of the project while honoring public health concerns.

We are excited about moving forward with the Cycle 2 Stakeholder Advocacy awards and having the opportunity to sign the contract once MHSOAC staff has capacity to draft it. To that end, we wanted to follow up with a concern and request we posed during the February MHSOAC meeting when the Stakeholder Advocacy Contracts 'Intent to Award' was announced.

**Concern:** Current RFP Budget Distribution does not equitably allow for local organizations to participate, receive technical assistance, or be funded equally. The timeline requires small local level entities to commit to a Scope of Work for which they may have to wait until 2021 or 2022 to start activities or be funded to do tasks. The current distribution supports five Local Level Entities (LLEs) the first year (leaving out ten), supports ten LLEs the second year (leaving out five), and all fifteen in the third year. This leaves the second and third year cohorts with a much shorter amount of time to develop and enact an advocacy strategy.

**Request:** Health Access Foundation and our partnering Local Level Entities are requesting that, as the Cycle 2 contracts are being drafted, MHSOAC staff be authorized to modify grant budget distribution to allow each local organization to receive the same level of support and engagement for all three years. The overall amount of funding for the grant would stay the same, only distribution would change. This would allow all fifteen LLEs to engage in mental health advocacy fully for all three years. While we realize this will increase the amount of work done by the California LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network (Health Access Foundation) to support all fifteen LLEs during all three years, we believe (based on feedback from the LLEs), that it is vital our local community partners receive equitable access to resources.

The chart below details the requested modifications:

**Current MHSOAC RFP Budget Distribution**

LLE Cohort	Year One		Year Two		Year Three		LLE 3 Year Total
	Task Force	Event	Task Force	Event	Task Force	Event	
Cohort #1	13k	17k	13k	0	13k	0	56k
Cohort #2	0	0	13k	17k	13k	0	43k
Cohort #3	0	0	0	0	13k	17k	30k
Each Cohort Total x 5	150k		215k		280k		<- Annual Budget

\*Five new task forces start each year, the other orgs are not involved until their cohort year starts.

**HAF and LLEs Requested Budget Distribution**

LLE Cohort	Year One		Year Two		Year Three		LLE 3 Year Total
	Task Force	Event	Task Force	Event	Task Force	Event	
Cohort #1	13k	4k	13k	0	13k	0	43k
Cohort #2	13k	0	13k	4k	13k	0	43k
Cohort #3	13k	0	13k	0	13k	4k	43k
Each Cohort Total x 5	215k		215k		215k		<- Annual Budget

\*All fifteen task forces start in year one. Would require MHSOAC to move \$65k from year three to year one.

- 1) **Requesting** to distribute Local Level Entity funding in a more equitable way within each year.
- 2) **Requesting** to move \$65,000 from year three to year one in order to allow for equitable funding to all fifteen Local Level Entities across all three years.

We look forward to further collaboration with the commission. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mandy Taylor at [mtaylor@health-access.org](mailto:mtaylor@health-access.org) or me at [awallner@health-access.org](mailto:awallner@health-access.org) or (916) 497-0923.

Sincerely,



**Amanda McAllister - Wallner, MPP**

Director, California LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network