



Mental Health Association in California

An Affiliate of Mental Health America

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MISSION

The mission of Mental Health America of California is to provide advocacy, education, information and other assistance necessary to ensure that all people who require mental health services are able to receive the mental health and other services that they need, and are not denied any other benefits, services, rights, or opportunities based on their need for mental health services.

The Mental Health America Affiliates have a mission that transcends that of being a provider, recipient or a family member of recipients of services. As the so-called "glue" that holds the California Coalition for Mental Health together, Mental Health America of California must not only have a strong presence in Sacramento, but also must have a strong presence in every community in California.

VISION OF OUR FUTURE ORGANIZATION

To carry out this mission, there must be a strong Mental Health America chapter in every community. A strong chapter has a broad base of support and membership including providers, clients, family members, mental health facilities and manufacturers of psychiatric medications and other products.

A strong chapter in each community should be able to:

Have a solid base of membership that demands additional funding for mental health and strong mental health coverage as a constituency group that cannot be ignored in any debate over local, state or federal budget issues and in mandatory health insurance debates. Our associations should be large enough to be able to deliver that critical mass of letters, phone calls, or attendees at meetings necessary for each local, state and federal elected official to see the mental health community as a powerful constituency group that is politically important to its members' future.

Provide staff and materials available to educate citizens about mental illness, about the efficacy of treatment and about the outdated myths that cause stigma and denial of services. These should be comprehensive and ongoing programs that reach schools, employers, labor unions, law enforcement, primary care physicians, parents and other family members. There should be a well coordinated local state and national public education program through the media.