



**Children, Youth and Families Behavioral Health
System of Care Council
Bylaws**

Article One Name

The name of this organization shall be the CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM OF CARE COUNCIL (also known as CYFBHSOCC or the Council).

Article Two Powers and Duties

The powers and duties of the Council shall be set forth by Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Administration, a division of the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). The Council reports to the Behavioral Health Services Director (BHS Director). The Council serves in an advisory capacity to the BHS Director. However, the Council, as needed, can brief the HHSA Director and/or staff on children’s behavioral health developments/issues. The Council is charged by the BHS Director to perform the following functions:

- Provide community oversight for the integrity of all services and advancement of all aspects of the system of care;
- Provide advice and feedback related to the progress and future expansion of the CYFBHSOC; and
- Provide information and recommendations to the BHS Director.

Article Three Membership

Membership on the Council is via appointment by the BHS Director through recommendations of each sector. The Council provides an opportunity for all four sectors (Education, Family/Youth, Provider, Public) to have a voice in policy development and implementation of the System of Care. Members will be appointed from the following:

| Constituencies | Seats |
|--|--------------|
| Behavioral Health Advisory Board | 1 |
| Behavioral Health Services | 1 |
| Public Safety Group/Probation | 1 |
| Child Welfare Services | 1 |
| HHSA Regions | 1 |
| Public Health | 1 |
| Juvenile Court | 1 |
| First 5 Commission | 1 |
| Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPA) | 1 |
| Regular Education- Pupil Personnel Services | 1 |
| School Board | 1 |
| Special Education | 1 |
| San Diego Regional Center for Developmentally Disabled | 1 |
| Alcohol and Drug Services Provider Association (ADSPA) | 2 |
| Mental Health Contractors Association | 2 |



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| Fee For Service Network | 1 |
| Healthcare/Pediatrician | 1 |
| Family and Youth Liaison | 1 |
| Caregiver of child/youth served by the public health system | 1 |
| Youth served by the public health system (age up to 26) | 2 |
| Managed Care Health Plan | 1 |

Membership shall be limited to 24 voting members. Each member/sector will also designate an “alternate,” a person to act on behalf of the regular member when the regular member is unavailable. Alternates retain voting privileges only when the regular member is not present. CYFBHSOCC members serve two-year terms, which may be renewed at the discretion of the BHS Director. Terms will begin in July, and be staggered with half of the membership rolling over one year, and the other half the next, to avoid enlisting an entirely new slate at one time.

Current CYFBHSOCC members and alternates shall have access to the trainings provided by the BHS training contractor. To gain access, a written request shall be submitted to Council staff for processing.

Council members from the Youth served by the public health system constituency, who complete an application for the annual California Mental Health Advocates for Children and Youth (CMHACY) conference scholarship, shall be given priority status for scholarship award.

Article Four Vacancies

Any vacancy in any seat on the Council shall be filled by appointment by the BHS Director. When a vacancy occurs, an analysis shall be conducted by the BHS Director as to the current composition of the Council and what constituency requires additional representation. The BHS Director shall recruit potential members from the constituency groups listed in Article Three, taking into consideration what is needed to represent demographics (gender, ethnicity, and age) of the County as a whole to the extent feasible. The Council should reflect the ethnic diversity of the client population in the county. The BHS Director formally appoint the member via letter to the member of the Council.

Article Five Quorum

A quorum shall be defined as one person more than one half of the appointed members. Alternates may be included in the quorum count if they are providing voting representation for the regular member. The definition of appointed members excludes unfilled positions and those vacated by resignation or removal.

Article Six Meetings

The CYFBHSOCC co-chairs will determine the frequency, times and locations for the Council meetings at the beginning of each committee year, July 1. Changes to the prevailing meeting schedule will be communicated to members no later than the meeting immediately preceding the changed meeting date. Meetings shall convene promptly at the scheduled time.

Agendas: Agendas are prepared by the Executive Committee in consultation with the BHS Director or designee. Members advise the co-chairs in advance of the proposed agenda items. Agendas are forwarded to



Council members, alternate and attendees in advance of the Council meeting to enable participants to decide if they want to attend.

Meeting Minutes: County Administrative staff record CYFBHSOCC meetings and maintain the Minute Book. Minutes are distributed to CYFBHSOCC members in advance of the next regularly scheduled meeting and shall be posted on the County website.

Article Seven Officers

The business of the Council is organized and managed through two co-chairs. The co-chairs are nominated by the sector responsible for chairing the upcoming serving term. The nominations are presented to the CYFBHSOCC at the April and May meetings; the co-chairs are formally elected by the CYFBHSOCC at the June meeting and start serving in the month of July.

The co-chairs are named from the four sector partnership of the System of Care – Education, Families/Youth, Providers, and Public Agencies, and should not represent the same constituency during any term. The co-chairs serve for two-year terms on a rotating basis, and alternating so there is always one serving their first and the other serving their second term year.

The co-chairs are responsible for the development and preparation of the meeting agendas and for obtaining briefings on progress and activities from the BHS Director. County Administrative staff provides support to the co-chairs and to activities of the Council, including meeting notices, minutes, and coordination.

Article Eight Sub-committees

The CYFBHSOCC has a “standing” sub-committee, the Executive Committee, tasked to follow up on current SOC principles and recommend a process to ensure relevancy to current realities and challenges which includes the development of sub-committees and task forces in order to complete its business, as well as the pausing or retirement of sub-committees that are no longer needed. Sub-committees are to submit a monthly written report to the CYFBHSOC Council.

Each sub-committee shall appoint or elect a chair or co-chairs. The chairs of the sub-committees are then members of the Executive Committee. The chairs of the sub-committees may be members of the Council, however if the individual serving in the capacity of chair or co-chair of a sub-committee is not a member of the Council, they become a member, ex officio (without vote), of the Council.

Article Nine Voting and Consensus

The CYFBHSOCC strives to achieve consensus on all decision matters. In the absence of full consensus, any item put to vote will be approved by a simple majority of those present. A quorum of the CYFBHSOCC must be present in order for a vote to be taken on any motion brought to the CYFBHSOCC.

Motions put to the CYFBHSOCC for vote should include the following information:

- Concise statement of the issue for vote;
- Purpose for the vote (e.g. recommendation to the Director, or change in bylaws); and



- Action to be taken pursuant to the vote.

The Council votes by show of hands on all action items brought before the Council for decision. The majority voice carrying the decisions is noted in the Minutes. Vote counts are not required.

Members opposing the outcome of a closely contested vote may request permission to submit a “minority opinion” into the record of the vote. Opposing members have two working days from the date of the vote to submit their minority opinion, in writing, to the co-chairs for inclusion in the official Minutes of the CYFBHSOCC.

Only members of the Council, or alternates attending in place of the delegated member, are eligible to vote. Alternates attending in addition to the regular member are not eligible to vote and do not count in the Quorum determination.

Article Ten Member Conduct

Conduct of members of the CYFBHSOCC is guided by these principles:

- Courtesy and respect for the customs and beliefs of others, consistent with the mission and philosophy of the System of Care and the Council;
- Respect for the confidential nature of information used by the CYFBHSOCC to conduct its business;
- Conduct in all relationships that ensures decisions are not compromised by any conflict of interest;
- Use of sound, ethical management practices in all CYFBHSOCC activities;
- Continuous striving to provide quality service to the CYFBHSOCC, the System of Care, and the children and families it serves.

Article Eleven Ratification and Amendments

These bylaws may be reviewed and updated annually by the CYFBHSOCC meeting.

Changes or amendments to these bylaws must be submitted in writing to the co-chairs and the BHS Director for review and consideration. The CYFBHSOCC co-chairs will have final determination if the amendment will be put to vote by the entire CYFBHSOCC. The Council may, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, adopt amended bylaws at any CYFBHSOCC meeting provided notice has been given at the prior meeting or at least thirty (30) days written notice has been given to the CYFBHSOCC membership.