

Mental Health America of California Public Policy Priorities 2017

Improve Stakeholder Process:

Educate and provide technical assistance to counties and stakeholders to enhance and support local stakeholder engagement activities so that county funded mental health services are developed and delivered in partnership with the community.

Support Mental Wellness in Diverse Communities

Support legislation and policy initiatives that positively impact and/or support mental wellness in diverse communities including, but not limited to, the development and implementation of community defined practices, the use of community health workers in behavioral health settings (Alameda County Model) and the disaggregation of racial/ethnic data.

Restorative Justice and Juvenile Justice – Ending the Criminalization of Mental Illness

Support legislation and initiatives that decrease the number of people with mental illness that are sentenced to, or held in, jail/prison and instead are supported with appropriate mental health services and supports.

Develop and disseminate recommendations to address the issue of over-representation of people of color in the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

Promotion of Prevention and Early Intervention – B4Stage4¹ Policies and Activities

Provide education, technical assistance, and support legislation/initiatives that increase the use of B4Stage4 approaches. B4Stage4 translates to before there is a mental health crisis. MHAC supports policy actions and efforts that create and enhance mental health supports, services and programs before there is a crisis.
