

104 CMR 26.00: ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Section

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26.01: Organization of the Department

The Department is authorized by M.G.L. c. 19, § 12, to establish a geographic structure for the organization and provision of mental health services. The Department's organization shall include a Central Office, Area Offices, and such other offices as may be designated from time to time by the Commissioner. The Department shall from time to time issue a Resource Guide that describes the geographic structure of the Department and how to access community-based service delivery systems throughout the state.

26.02: Designation of Departmental Facilities

- (1) The Commissioner is authorized by M.G.L. c. 19, § 7 to designate the state facilities under the control of the Department. The following have been so designated by the Commissioner:
 - (a) State Hospitals: Taunton State Hospital; Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital.
 - (b) Community Mental Health Centers with Inpatient Units: Cape Cod and Islands Mental Health Center; Corrigan Mental Health Center; Dr. Solomon Carter Fuller Mental Health Center.
 - (c) Community Mental Health Centers without Inpatient Units: Brockton Multi-Service Center; Massachusetts Mental Health Center; Erich Lindemann Mental Health Center; Dr. Harry C. Solomon Mental Health Center; Quincy Mental Health Center.
 - (d) State Hospital Psychiatric Units: Hathorne Units of Tewksbury Hospital; Metro Boston Mental Health Units of Lemuel Shattuck Hospital.
 - (e) The Women's Recovery from Addictions Program, a facility for the treatment of women committed pursuant to M.G.L. c. 123, § 35.
- (2) Specialized units operated by the Department directly or through contract in a Department facility that are subject to the facility's governance structure shall be considered part of that facility.

26.03: Citizen Advisory Boards

- (1) Authority and General Requirements.
 - (a) Authority. The Department is authorized by M.G.L. c. 19 to provide for and to cooperate with citizen advisory boards at its facilities and at each geographic level of the Department. 104 CMR 26.03, applies to the Mental Health Advisory Council, the board of trustees for a state hospital, Area Boards, the Human Rights Advisory Committee, Site Boards and such other citizen advisory boards as may be established by the Commissioner.
 - (b) Special State Employees. Subject to the exception below, all appointed members of the Department's citizen advisory boards, as well as all volunteers who may serve on a regular or *ad hoc* committee or subcommittee of a citizen advisory board, shall be special state employees and, as such, are subject to the conflict of interest law, M.G.L. c. 268A. Nothing in M.G.L. c. 268A, § 7, shall prevent a person who has a financial interest, directly or indirectly, in a contract made by the Department from serving as a member of a citizen advisory board. Members of such committee shall disclose any such financial interest by written notification to the Commissioner and the State Ethics Commission.
 - (c) Waiver. With respect to any person nominated for appointment to a citizen advisory board, the qualification standards set forth in 104 CMR 26.03 may be waived by the appointing authority for good cause except where such standards are otherwise required by law.
 - (d) Application of Open Meeting Law. The meetings of any board established under M.G.L. c. 19 or subject to 104 CMR 26.03 shall be subject to the provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18 through 25 concerning the meetings of governmental bodies.

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(e) General Requirements. The following requirements apply to all citizen advisory boards subject to 104 CMR 26.03.

1. Membership requirements.
 - a. No member may be an employee of the Department;
 - b. No more than one third of the members may be employees of the state;
 - c. Members shall represent the entire geographic area covered by the board;
 - d. Members shall receive orientation and training upon their appointment; and
 - e. Members shall serve without compensation, but each member shall be reimbursed by the state for all reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of his or her duties;
2. Terms of Office.
 - a. The term of office for citizen advisory boards is three years;
 - b. In the event of a vacancy in the membership of a citizen advisory board where the term of a former member's appointment has not yet expired, the appointing authority for that board may appoint a member who shall serve for the remainder of that unexpired term or may appoint a member to serve a full three year term;
 - c. No member shall be appointed to serve more than two consecutive three year terms;
 - d. A person must wait for at least one year after completing a second consecutive three year term before becoming eligible for reappointment.
3. Duties and Powers of Citizen Boards.
 - a. To educate the public regarding the needs of individuals with mental illness and their families;
 - b. To receive and review regular reports concerning the Department's programs and services;
 - c. To make recommendations to the Commissioner or designee based on the review of regular reports;
 - d. To hold regular meetings as follows:
 - i. An Area Board shall hold at least four regular meetings in each year, and convene special meetings on the call of the board's president or ten members of the board, or by the Commissioner or designee.
 - ii. All other Advisory Boards shall hold at least three regular meeting in each year, and convene special meetings on the call of the board's president or a majority of members of the board.
 - iii. A special meeting of any Advisory Board may be called by the Commissioner or designee; provided that the Commissioner or designee may participate in all meetings but may not vote.
 - e. To appoint any permanent or *ad hoc* advisory committee that the board deems necessary, or as specified in the bylaws. The term of office for any member of such a committee shall be determined by the board, or as specified in the bylaws;
 - f. To elect from its members annually a president and such other officers as it deems appropriate, or as required by law;
 - g. To enact bylaws for its proper organization and procedures at meetings, provided that the bylaws and any subsequent amendments must be submitted to the Commissioner or designee for approval.

(2) Community Mental Health Area Boards. The Commissioner shall appoint in each Area, with the advice of the Area Director, a Community Mental Health Area Board ("Area Board"). In addition to the general requirements listed at 104 CMR 26.03(1)(e), the membership requirements, terms of office, and duties and powers of each Area Board shall be as follows:

- (a) Membership Requirements.
 1. The Area Board shall consist of no less than 15 members appointed by the Commissioner. Two thirds of the members must live within the Area and the remaining members must either live or work within the Area;

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2. The Area Board should reflect the geographic and demographic diversity of the Area. When making appointments, the Commissioner shall include, but not be limited to, persons who are or have been recipients of mental health services, including individuals between 18 and 25 years of age and adults 60 years of age or older; persons who are family members or guardians of recipients of mental health services, including family members or guardians of children younger than 19 years old currently receiving services; and persons representing racial and cultural minorities;
3. The Area Board shall include one representative from the board of trustees of each state hospital located within the Area;
4. The Area Board shall include one representative from each Site Board located within the Area.

(b) Appointment and Terms of Office.

1. The Commissioner shall appoint and may remove Area Board members who shall be sworn to the faithful performance of their duties.
2. Each Area Board, in conjunction with the Area Director, shall suggest for consideration by the Commissioner one or more names for each expiring term or vacancy.

(c) Duties and Powers of Area Boards.

1. To act as the representative of the citizens of the Area;
2. To take cognizance of the unique needs of the various sites within the Area;
3. To advise the Area Director regarding local needs and resources in the development of comprehensive mental health services in the Area and on matters of importance to the Area and the Department;
4. In a manner determined by the Commissioner, to consult in the recruitment and selection of the Area Director to be appointed by the Commissioner;
5. To participate in the review of service program development, annual goals and annual budgets for the comprehensive mental health services of the Area;
6. To consult with the Commissioner or designee in personnel recruitment and appointment policies and in the establishment of program priorities for the Area;
7. To consult with the Commissioner or designee on the admission policies for all facilities and services, and policies regarding relationships with other agencies and organizations;
8. To review programs and services which are part of the program of the Area, including those which are not conducted with state-operated facilities;
9. To receive and administer any gift or bequest of personal property or funds in trust, or any grant or devise of lands made to its use in trust in the interest of the Area program of mental health services;
10. To communicate with the statewide Mental Health Advisory Council regarding matters concerning the Area.

(3) Site Boards. The Area Director shall appoint for each Site located within an Area, a Site Board. In addition to the general requirements listed at 104 CMR 26.03(1)(e), the membership requirements, terms of office, and duties and powers of each Site Board shall be as follows:

(a) Membership Requirements.

1. Two thirds of the members must live within the geographic area served by the Site Board and the remaining members shall either live or work within the geographic area;
2. Membership of the Site Board should reflect the geographic and demographic diversity of the area. When making appointments, the Commissioner or designee shall include, but not be limited to, persons who are or have been recipients of mental health services, including individuals between 18 and 25 years of age and adults 60 years of age or older; persons who are family members or guardians of recipients of mental health services, including family members or guardians of children younger than 19 years old currently receiving services; and persons representing racial and cultural minorities.

(b) Appointment of Members.

1. The Area Director shall appoint and may remove Site Board members.
2. Each Site Board may suggest for consideration by the Area Director one or more names for each expiring term or vacancy.

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(c) Duties and Powers of Site Boards.

1. To act as the representative of the citizens of the geographic area served by the Site Board;
2. To collaborate with and advise the Area Board and Area Director regarding local needs, resources, and matters of concern in the geographic area served by the Site Board;
3. To participate in the review of the Area's proposed annual budget;
4. To participate in the development of programs for the geographic area served by the Site Board;
5. To attend regularly scheduled meetings with program provider representatives in order to promote high quality programs and services.

(4) Boards of Trustees for State Hospitals. In addition to the general requirements listed at 104 CMR 26.03(1)(e), the membership requirements, terms of office, and duties and powers of the State Hospital Boards of Trustees provided for by M.G.L. c. 19, § 8A, shall be as follows:

(a) Membership Requirements.

1. Members shall be appointed or removed by the Governor;
2. A majority of the trustees shall be persons who are or have been recipients of mental health services and their guardians or family members.

(b) Duties and Powers.

1. To visit and become familiar with the state hospital. This duty requires board members to personally visit, at least annually, all service delivery areas within the state hospital;
2. To interact with the Area Board in an effort to ensure coordination of the service delivery system in the Area;
3. In a manner determined by the Commissioner, to consult in the recruitment and selection of the facility director to be appointed by the Commissioner;
4. To review and make recommendations concerning the annual budget for the state hospital;
5. To review programs and services which are a part of the program of the state hospital and oversee the development, establishment and implementation of internal and external monitoring functions within the state hospital, including any monitoring activities carried out by interested citizens;
6. From time to time, to make suggestions to the Department for improvements in the state hospital, especially those that will make its administration more effective, economical and humane.

(5) Mental Health Advisory Council. In addition to the general requirements listed at 104 CMR 26.03(1)(e), the membership requirements, terms of office, and duties and powers of the Statewide Mental Health Advisory Council provided for by M.G.L. c. 19, § 11, shall be as follows:

(a) Membership Requirements.

1. The Mental Health Advisory Council shall consist of 15 members appointed by the appointed or removed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services with the approval of the Governor;
2. There must be at least one member from each Area in the state;
3. Eight of the members must be citizens who are members of the Department's Area Boards across the state;
4. One member shall be a professional in the field of children's mental health;
5. At least four of the remaining members shall be appointed to represent one of the following professions and groups: state level medical, psychological, nursing, educational, social work, occupational therapy, or bar associations, associations for mental health, industrial and labor groups, and the clergy;
6. Membership of the Mental Health Advisory Council should reflect the geographic and demographic diversity of the state. When making appointments, the Secretary shall include, but not be limited to, persons who are or have been recipients of mental health services, including individuals between 18 and 25 years of age and adults 60 years of age or older; persons who are family members or guardians of recipients of mental health services, including family members or guardians of children younger than 19 years old currently receiving services; and persons representing racial and cultural minorities.

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(b) Duties and Powers.

1. To advise the Commissioner on policy, program development, and priorities of need in the Commonwealth for comprehensive programs in mental health;
2. To participate with the Department in holding a regular series of public hearings throughout the state to obtain the views of the Area Boards, and other citizens concerning the programs of the Department and the needs for mental health services;
3. To make recommendations to the Commissioner based on a review of the annual plan and the proposed annual budget of the Department.

(6) Human Rights Advisory Committee. The Commissioner shall appoint a statewide Human Rights Advisory Committee. In addition to the general requirements listed at 104 CMR 26.03(1)(e), the membership requirements, terms of office, and duties and powers of the Human Rights Advisory Committee shall be as follows:

(a) Membership Requirements.

1. A majority of the membership of the Committee shall be comprised of one or more of each of the following: past or present recipients of mental health services or their guardians; family members of such persons; representatives of advocacy organizations; psychologists; psychiatrists; and mental health service providers.
2. Membership of the Human Rights Advisory Committee should reflect the geographic and demographic diversity of the state. When making appointments, the Commissioner shall include, but not be limited to, persons who are or have been recipients of mental health services, including individuals between 18 and 25 years of age and adults 60 years of age or older; persons who are family members or guardians of recipients of mental health services, including family members or guardians of children younger than 19 years old currently receiving services; and persons representing racial and cultural minorities.

(b) Appointment of Members.

1. The Commissioner shall appoint and may remove Committee members;
2. The Committee may suggest for consideration by the Commissioner one or more names for each expiring term or vacancy.

(c) Duties and Powers.

1. To advise the Commissioner or designee regarding the human and civil rights of clients served by the Department;
2. To assist the Commissioner or designee in identifying the human and civil rights implications of existing and proposed Department policy and procedure;
3. To assist the Commissioner or designee in reviewing human rights training programs;
4. At the Commissioner's request, to consult on the appointment of the Department's Director of Human Rights.

(d) Expectations and Limits of Advocacy. The Department, being mindful of the state conflict of interest law, M.G.L. c. 268A, sets forth and authorizes the following expectations and limits of advocacy by members of the Committee. A committee member's official duties do not preclude representation of or advocacy for any party, including the receipt of compensation for such representation or advocacy, if the committee member acts in accordance with 104 CMR 26.03.

1. General Rule. The Department expects that persons appointed to the Committee who are regularly advocates for the human rights of Department clients (whether or not such advocates are "representatives of advocacy organizations" as provided in 104 CMR 26.03(5)(a)1., whether they are legal advocates or otherwise, and whether paid or unpaid - hereafter referred to as "outside advocates") will bring to their participation on the Committee the knowledge, views and spirit of that outside advocacy, so that the Department may have the benefit of a diverse range of perspectives in order better to protect and respect the human rights of its clients.
2. Limitations on General Rule. If the Committee addresses any matter which involves the rights or obligations of a specific, known person receiving services from the Department, any member of the Committee who is such an outside advocate and who:

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a. has participated or is participating in the same matter as an outside advocate for any party to it, shall disclose to the Committee the relevant facts as to such participation and shall have the opportunity to present to the Committee any information or argument pertaining to the matter, but may not thereafter participate in the deliberations or votes of the Committee or in any advice provided to the Commissioner or other person within the Department regarding the matter.

b. might thereafter participate in the same matter as an outside advocate for any party to it, shall, before, or as soon as, it is addressed by the Committee, recuse himself or herself so that he or she does not learn any information regarding the matter not otherwise available without membership on the Committee or otherwise participate in the deliberations, votes or advice of the Committee. Any information about the matter gained by reason of the member's presence shall be kept in confidence and not disclosed to anyone outside the Committee. However, the member shall have the opportunity to present to the Committee any information or argument on any relevant general issue pertaining to the matter.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

104 CMR 26.00: M.G.L. c. 19, § 18.