

Charter for the California Co-Occurring Joint Action Council (COJAC)
As revised, February 22, 2006

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to define the purpose, organization, functional operations and success measures of the COJAC.

Vision Statement

ONE PERSON, ONE TEAM, ONE PLAN.

COJAC Mission

The mission of the COJAC is to actualize the vision and is to provide leadership for the implementation of the California Action Plan and subsequent amendments for co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders. The goal of the Action Plan is to help improve upon existing efforts to deliver quality, responsive, and culturally competent services to Californians with co-occurring disorders of mental illness and substance abuse.

Background

The Fiscal Year (FY) 1995/1996 Governor's Budget Language mandated that the Departments of Mental Health (DMH) and Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) work together to eliminate barriers to the provision of services to persons with co-occurring disorders (COD) of mental health and substance abuse.

In 1996, the two Departments convened the Dual Diagnosis Task Force, comprised of members from the County Alcohol and Drug Program Administrators Association (CADPAAC) and County Mental Health Directors Association (CMHDA), and jointly sponsored four dual diagnosis demonstration projects.

In 2002, the two Departments established the COD Workgroup and developed a plan for enhancing services to persons with co-occurring disorders. This group provided a final report with recommendations in June 2004.

In 2004, the COD Joint Policy Academy was formed which included representatives from CADPAAC and CMHDA. The purpose of the academy was to develop strategies for improving integrated/coordinated services for persons with co-occurring disorders.

In 2005, the National Policy Academy was formed and tasked to develop and help implement a state action plan for California.

The COD Joint Policy Academy and the National Policy Academy along with service provider groups have now merged into one forum called the Co-Occurring Joint Action Council (COJAC).

Organizational Framework

The ADP and the DMH have the responsibility for providing leadership and support for the COJAC. Directors Kathryn P. Jett and Stephen W. Mayberg are project sponsors. The CADPAAC and the CMHDA are responsible to provide technical expertise, and coordinate facilitating meetings. Representatives from CADPAAC and CMHDA will co-chair the COJAC.

The Policy Council is the executive committee of the COJAC. The Council consists of six members appointed by the Directors of ADP and DMH, and serves as the liaison between the COJAC and the Directors. The Policy Council is comprised of:

- Two Deputy Directors, one each from ADP and DMH
- Two Assistant Deputy Directors from both Departments
- Representatives of CADPAAC and CMHDA who co-chair the COJAC

The COJAC Workgroup is responsible to provide advice and recommendations through the Policy Council and to the ADP and DMH Directors on program and policy issues. The COJAC is responsible for implementation of the California Action Plan and other yet undetermined responsibilities.

Membership

The COJAC Workgroup consists of members of the National Policy Academy and the joint State Policy Academy, and representatives from CADPAAC, CMHDA, CiMH, and the Alcohol and Drug Policy Institute. Other stakeholders such as providers and provider groups may be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the ADP and DMH Directors.

Members of COJAC Workgroup are expected to be active participants; however, non-voting representatives may participate whenever regular members are not available.

Committees are appointed to facilitate the work of the COJAC. Committees are chaired by COJAC members and will include non-COJAC members in order to ensure participation from many stakeholders, including rural counties and special populations.

Meetings

Meetings will typically be held every other month; however, the COJAC may revise the meeting schedule at any time. Teleconferences between committees and other COJAC members will be scheduled on an as needed basis.

Success Measures

The COJAC will be considered a success if the strategies within the California Action Plan and other adopted strategies are accomplished.