



Behavioral Health Advisory Council (BHAC)

What is BHAC?

The BHAC is a statutorily required advisory Council, operating under Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 53-21-702. BHAC is responsible to provide input to Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) in the development and management of any public behavioral health system; work with the Addictive and Mental Disorders Division (AMDD) to advise and help guide the direction of public behavioral health services in Montana.

Who is eligible to serve on BHAC?

State law requires that at least half of the membership be individuals accessing behavioral health services, including persons with serious mental illnesses who are receiving public behavioral health services, other recipients of behavioral health services, former recipients of public behavioral health services, and immediate family members of persons receiving behavioral health services. The Council must also include advocates for individuals, members of the public at large, providers of behavioral health services, at least one legislator, at least one representative of Native American (American Indian) tribes, one member of the Montana Association of Counties (MACo), one representative from each Local Advisory Council. Geographic representation must be considered when appointing members to the advisory Council in order to provide as wide a representation as possible.

What are the responsibilities of a BHAC member?

BHAC members are appointed for a four-year term and must be available to attend three meetings per year. Membership on the Council is a volunteer position; however, members are reimbursed for approved expenses such as mileage, hotel, and per diem. The duties of the Council members are:

- Review the Mental Health Block Grant Plan and make recommendations to DPHHS.
- Serve as an advocate for adults with serious mental illness, children with serious emotional disturbance, co-occurring disorders, and other individuals with mental illnesses.
- Monitor, review, and evaluate the allocation and adequacy of mental health services within the State.

How do I become a member of BHAC?

For more information on becoming a BHAC member, please contact:

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Visit the Addictive and Mental Disorders Division at:
<http://dphhs.mt.gov/amdd/Mentalhealthservices>