

In October 2019, Governor Brown issued an Executive Order to convene the Behavioral Health Advisory Council. The council will develop recommendations aimed at improving access to effective behavioral health services and supports for all Oregon adults and transitional-aged youth with serious mental illness or co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders.

The Oregon Health Authority is committed to ensuring that people with lived experience are meaningfully involved in the work of the Governor's Behavioral Health Advisory Council. To help meet this goal, OHA's Office of Consumer Activities will collaborate with peers and behavioral health consumers from around the state over the coming year.

Here are some ways you can get involved:

**Attend a community dialogue meeting**

Beginning in April, OHA staff and members of the Governor's Behavioral Health Advisory Council will meet face to face with behavioral health consumers and family members around Oregon. We'll update you on the council's work, gather your input, and take what we learn back to the group.

**Sign up for the Office of Consumer Activities List Serv**

After each council meeting, OHA's Office of Consumer Activities will send out a short summary of the meeting, as well as a link to more detailed information for those who want to dig deeper. We will also keep subscribers updated on the dates, times, and locations of future meetings. Readers are encouraged to respond and provide feedback which will be shared with the council.

**Attend a meeting of the Addictions and Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council, the Oregon Consumer Advisory Council, or the Children's System Advisory Council**

OHA staff will provide an update on the work of the Governor's Behavioral Health Advisory Council at each one of these public meetings. Members of OHA advisory councils will have the opportunity to engage in discussion and provide feedback during the meeting. Members of the public can share their thoughts during the public comment period or contact OHA staff with questions or comments.

**Invite us to your community meetings**

Are you a member of an advisory or advocacy group that includes peers or behavioral health consumers? OHA staff are available to visit your group, present information, and answer questions about the Governor's Behavioral Health Advisory Council. We will gather your feedback and suggestions and present them to the council.

**Attend a meeting of the Governor's Behavioral Health Advisory Council**

OHA is seeking people with lived experience who wish to attend council meetings to share their expertise with council members. Groups are currently meeting to discuss housing, community services & supports, and the behavioral health workforce. Experts by experience are needed and eagerly welcomed.

To learn more about the council or arrange to attend a meeting, please contact OCA Director Brandy Hemsley at 971-239-2942 or [brandy.l.hemsley@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:brandy.l.hemsley@dhsosha.state.or.us).