

PROs	CONS
CalMHSA is a joint Powers Authority of counties established to allow County Mental Health Directors to jointly develop, and fund mental health services and education programs as determined on a regional, statewide, or other basis.	
CalMHSA is a public entity separate and apart from the member parties, with governance and bylaws.	As a separate entity board members should participate by attending board meetings (in person or by telephone) and committees. This may require time and travel costs if the member is not already attending a CMHDA meeting the same day.
<p>Financial structure of the JPA was established to protect members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the intent of the Authority that all programs are fiscally self-contained requiring no additional funding. • Authority Financing base is not fee/dues driven, but by program participation • Authority provides flexibility in partnering statewide, regional, local and/or any combination of JPA members • One time member application fee based on county population (\$250-\$1,000) • No Dues to manage the JPA • As projects/contracts are assigned/administered, any management costs would be associated with the specific program or project 	
Subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act and open to public participation	Participation remotely requires public posting of agenda and designated location for attendance.
Teleconference capacity has been established to defray travel costs and time away from Counties.	
CalMHSA is a member of CSAC-EIA, which provides broad insurance coverage with a \$25 million limit. This coverage is complimentary to county members who are already insured thru CSAC-EIA.	Members of the JPA are potentially subject to joint and several liability.
CalMHSA is an Affiliate Member of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC).	

<p>CalMHSA has adopted a modified version of CSAC's member voting structure as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures may be passed by a simple majority of members present and voting Weighted voting shall only take place upon the motion of any Board Member, seconded by another Only members participating in a specific program may vote for those particular program action items Members may vote on administrative items, even if not participating in any programs 	<p>Weighted voting could allow a few large population counties to decide an issue. However, no county has ever requested a weighted vote.</p> <p>While voting is limited, exposure to liability cannot be limited, other than through insurance.</p>
<p>Members increase cost efficiency in fiscal and administration of joint projects</p>	<p>Certain individual entity controls may be lost in a joint membership</p>
<p>Members have access to CalMHSA as a repository to house, share and disseminate research, information and specific strategies that are the most effective and quality assured</p> <p>Receive evaluation and analysis of potential statewide and regional efforts for systematic results</p>	
<p>CalMHSA has several resources for disseminating information to various groups/communities, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CalMatrix (Communication tool for Program Partners and CalMHSA staff) CalMHSA website (www.calmhsa.org) Staff expertise—we have staff with various backgrounds of expertise, to include social work, business, accounting, JPA administration, county staff, MHSOAC staff, evaluation, etc. 	
<p>Present membership is at 95% of the California population, which are 49 members representing 49 counties, 1 City and 1 JPA. (An additional four counties have assigned money to CalMHSA and an added four counties are in process of membership with additional counties considering joining.)</p>	<p>There might be one or two counties with no willingness to join, which might impede the ability of CalMHSA to act for all counties.</p>
<p>Governed by the Board of Directors, the following committees have been established:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Committee—facilitates the expeditious handling of transactions relating to the Authority's operations Finance Committee—Oversees financial operations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board approved annual budget Board approved audit Investment policy 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Committee—Serve as a hub of communication and disseminate all program information to stakeholders, partners, Board of Directors, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership consists of 12 members: 6 standing members of the Board of Directors (1 member of the Executive Committee and 5 representing CA regions), and 6 stakeholder members (1 Co-chair and 5 representing CA regions) 	
Membership criteria designed for flexibility with full and limited membership as well as a Memorandum of Understanding as a Partner.	
<p>Due to CalMHSA's governance and staff structure has been able to accomplish the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the CalMHSA Statewide PEI Work Plan Release RFPs/RFAs for projects Enter into contracts for the implementation of projects Currently managing outcomes 	
CalMHSA administers other contracts: A seven county Technical Assistance and Capacity Building contract thru CiMH, and the Contra Costa WET Program	
Provide members with an alternative to the assignment of county MHSA funds to the state department and state legislature to implement state and regional MHSA projects	

FUTURE

- CalMHSA is currently working with the California Mental Health Directors Association (CMHDA) and California Institute of Mental Health (CiMH) on a joint business plan to define and clarify roles and responsibilities to include addressing county mental health challenges, such as, statewide hospital beds, EPSPT Fund, 1115 Waiver, 2011 Realignment and budget clarity.
- CalMHSA in collaboration with CMHDA and the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) are actively addressing the issue of Reversion pertinent to the Statewide PEI Initiatives, to include: Suicide Prevention, Stigma and Discrimination Reduction and Student Mental Health.
- Members not participating in programs could benefit from assigning a percentage of their Statewide PEI Funds for the purpose of participating in the Statewide Evaluation as it is expected to provide crucial feedback to facilitate more effective mental health efforts.

For more information please visit our website at www.calmhsa.org and/or contact Laura Li at laura.li@georgehills.com or 916-859-4818.