

## **Mental Health America of California - Principles**

*When evaluating proposed changes to the public mental health system, MHAC uses the following principles:*

1. The change will address a core problem with structure, delivery or impact.
2. The design and implementation of the change will engage clients and their families in roles that have purpose and meaning for them.
3. Mental health and substance use disorder services will be integrated with seamless access and minimal barriers.
4. Services will address the diverse needs of California's population, including those with serious mental illnesses.
5. Proposed changes will be based on a paradigm of recovery and resilience, meeting clients where they are and engaging them in their own recovery.
6. Outcomes will be measured and accessible to providers and the public. Outcomes will have a recovery focus, including factors such as relationships, a safe residence, meaningful activities and improved health.
7. Program evaluation will focus on the most critical elements of proposed changes and will include both empirical outcomes and process measures at the community, system and client levels as appropriate.
8. Training and technical assistance will be available to counties, providers and stakeholders.
9. Training will expand and ensure a skilled, diverse workforce that includes individuals with lived experience.
10. Proposed changes will respect client choice and foster maximum client independence.

*As of 01/21/2021*