



Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

Mental Health Board Roles and Responsibilities

Why do MHB's Exist?

- State law requires that each county have a Mental Health Board or Commission.
- The Board of Supervisors appoints members for three-year terms.
- Board members advise the Board of Supervisors and the Behavioral Health Director on various aspects of local behavioral health programs.

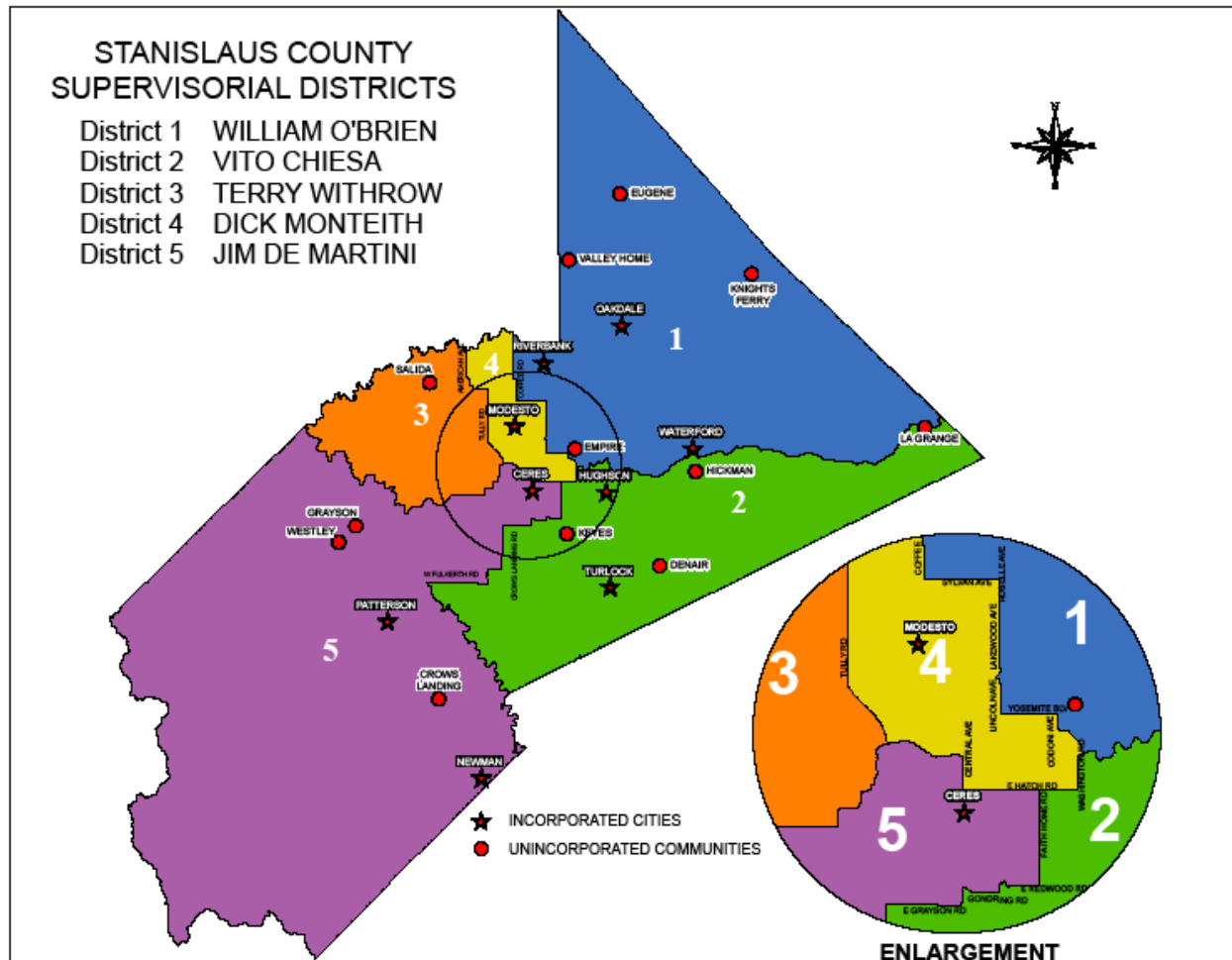
MHB Mission

- Advocate for the highest possible quality of life for individuals with mental illness
- Advocate for the elimination of stigma through public awareness
- Advocate for the removal of barriers to mental health services
- Provide oversight and work in partnership with the staff of the County Behavioral Health Department

MHB Membership

- The MHB is made up of 15 members appointed by the Board of Supervisors and a member of the County Board of Supervisors.
- Board membership should reflect the ethnic diversity of the client population of the County.
- 50% of the MHB membership shall be persons with mental illness or family members of those who are receiving or need mental health services. At least 20% of the membership shall be persons with mental illness and at least 20% shall be family members.
- Vacancies are filled based on the supervisorial district of where you live.

Stanislaus County Supervisorial Districts



MHB Committees

- There are six standing committees and an Executive Committee.
- Each member is required to be a member of at least one standing committee
 1. Children's System of Care
 2. Adult/Older Adult System of Care
 3. Administrative and Fiscal Management
 4. Managed Care
 5. Criminal Justice Oversight Committee
 6. Impact Committee
- or attend the Advisory Board of Substance Abuse Program (ABSAP) Board Meeting once a month.



The Brown Act

The *Brown Act* is the law which guarantees the public's right to attend and participate in meetings of local legislative bodies, which includes the Mental Health Board.

Review and Evaluate

Evaluate the public mental health services to ensure they meet the needs of the community:

- Have presentations by various agencies, contractors, community groups, programs, etc.
- Review facilities and services through site visits
- Submit an annual report to the Board of Supervisors

Member Responsibilities

- Attend all MHB meetings unless excused
- Be a member of at least one MHB Committee
- Be familiar with MHB Bylaws
- Attend Ethics Training every two years
- Review documents and issues and participate actively in meetings
- Help develop and implement MHB goals
- Talk to members of the community regarding mental health services and individuals with mental illness
- Be open to input and feedback from Board members, staff and the community
- Be a force for unity on the Board
- Act as a representative of the MHB when you have the sanction of the full Board

Helpful Information

Stanislaus County Mental Health Board

<http://www.stancounty.com/bhrs/mh-board.shtm>

The Brown Act

http://ag.ca.gov/publications/2003_Intro_BrownAct.pdf

*Submit Interest Survey to: Veronica Ortiz-Valle
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