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CLARK COUNTY  
WASHINGTON

# Clark County Regional Support Network Policy Statement

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**Policy No.:** AD08  
**Policy Title:** Mental Health Advisory Board  
**Effective Date:** September 1, 2001

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**Policy:** Mental Health Advisory Board members are appointed by the Clark County Board of Commissioners based upon criteria established to assure a cross section of geographical representation of the community as well as the ethnicity and broader cultural aspects of the consumers served. Membership must be comprised of 51% current or past consumers of public mental health services including those who are youths, older adults, disability, family, foster family members or caregivers of consumers including parents of emotionally disturbed children.

**Reference:** RCW 71.05: Mental Illness; RCW 71.24: Community Mental Health Services Act; RCW 71.34: Mental health Services for Minors; WAC 388-865: Community mental Health and Involuntary Treatment Programs; WAC 388-865-0222: Advisory Board; CCRSN Mental Health Advisory Board Bylaws

**Procedure:**

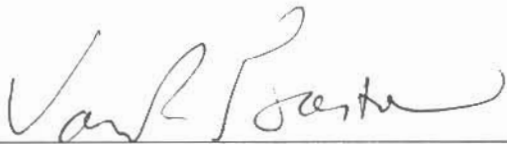
**Function:** To ensure decisions are made in the best interest of our community and its citizens, the Clark County Board of Commissioners relies on advisory boards to:

1. Facilitate a process for integrating community input and other expertise with the perspectives of the advisory board members as a basis for recommendation to the Board of Commissioners.
2. Review and recommend long range program plans annual program priorities and budgets and offer recommendations when needed.
3. *Communicate and/or collaborate with other individuals and groups who have complementary interests or expertise.*
4. Maintain public awareness of program policies, priorities and direction and advocate for consumer constituencies within Clark County.
5. Maintain formal, periodic communication with the Board of County Commissioners through formal work session presentations with CCRSN staff.
6. Maintain the advisory board as a dynamic, diverse and responsive entity with membership composition and rotation designed to sustain vigor and preserve continuity.

7. Participate on working committees to assist the CCRSN staff on particular issues and or identified problem areas. Such committees, after adequate study and deliberation shall make recommendation to the full Advisory Board for any recommended actions.
8. Recommendations from the Advisory Board shall be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for final approval. Upon action of the Board, CCRSN shall support the implementation of the Board recommendations.

**Recruitment:** The CCRSN staff shall work with the BOCC and MHAB in the recruitment and appointment of new advisory board members and the reappointment of current advisory board members, consistent with the bylaws of the CCRSN Mental Health Advisory Board and referenced WACs. Recruitment efforts shall be targeted to fill position vacancies as they occur. Special efforts shall be made to recruit consumers, family members, and representatives from underserved populations.

**Staff Functions:** Administration: Clark County Department of Community Services through the Regional Support Network is responsible for the day to day operation and management of mental health program services. Contract and fiscal management is the responsibility of the Business Services Unit of the Department of Community Services. RSN Management Team is responsible for program operations, quality management and care management activities. In addition, RSN staff provides leadership assistance to the Mental Health Advisory Board.

Approved By:  Date: 6/23/09  
**Vanessa Gaston, Director**  
**Clark County**  
**Department of Community Services**