

**Psychiatric Advanced Directives
Multi-County Collaborative
Mental Health Services Act Innovations Project**

The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC or Commission) has initiated a project supporting county Innovation to test the feasibility of using Psychiatric Advanced Directives (PADs). It can be shown PADs are a form of Supported Decision-Making (SDM) that help reduce reliance on crisis and involuntary care. PADs also have the potential to enhance individual independence for persons with mental health needs and related conditions in areas of daily life, education, housing, medical, employment, and financial empowerment. The goal of this Innovation project is to help counties improve their access to the appropriateness and quality of care while preserving the individual's life goals and mental health preferences. PADs serve to improve positive outcomes for consumers at risk of involuntary care, homelessness, unnecessary hospitalizations, and involvement with the criminal justice systems through all stages of life. PADs are a means for increasing self-determination and autonomy by encouraging and empowering individuals to make decisions about their own lives.

Currently, four counties (Orange, Fresno, Monterey, and Shasta) have voiced interest in moving this project forward to create a Statewide initiative which would include policy, protocol, and procedures. The proposed project will engage the expertise of ethnically and culturally diverse communities, threshold populations, consumers, peers with lived experience, consumer and family advocacy groups, and disability rights groups. The project proposes to meet several unmet needs throughout the state. These needs are as follows, but are not limited to:

1. Provide a standardized level of training regarding PADS for both communities and stakeholders.
2. Standardize a statewide PADS template.
3. Standardize a PADS training "tool-kit" to be easily replicated from county to county.
4. Align mental health PADS with medical Advanced Directives so both physical and mental health needs are equally addressed.
5. Utilize a Learning Management System (LMS) for ease of county access to PADS training and materials.
6. Utilize peers to create PADS based on lived experience and understanding, which can lead to open dialog and trust.
7. Create infrastructure for a cloud-based data warehouse for ease of access to PADS in a crisis, providing mobility of PADS throughout the state.
8. Create legislation to enforce the use and acceptance of standardized PADS in California.
9. Create a continuous evaluation process that is outcome driven; evaluating training, PADS template ease of use, and PADS utilization.



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