



July 10, 2020

To Texans interested in Behavioral Health issues:

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is accepting applications for membership on the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee. The committee was formed to provide client and stakeholder input to the Texas Health and Human Services system regarding the allocation and adequacy of behavioral health services and programs within the state of Texas. The committee must seek input from the behavioral health community on these issues and produce formal recommendations to HHSC.

The HHS executive commissioner will appoint members to the committee to serve a term expiring Aug. 31, 2023. Currently, HHSC is seeking representatives to be selected from the following categories:

- Adult recipient of mental health or substance abuse services
- Independent community behavioral health service providers
- People who have an interest in behavioral health systems and a working knowledge of behavioral health issues (including a person with lived experience, family member, advocate, provider, or other)

In addition to membership on the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee, members who are an adult recipient of mental health or substance abuse services may be appointed to serve as a BHAC representative on the Joint Committee on Access and Forensic Services. JCAFS meetings happen every three months in Austin. The committee advises HHSC on improving access to mental health services throughout the full continuum of care from institution (psychiatric inpatient facilities) to community-based settings for people on civil and forensic commitments. Visit the [JCAFS website](#) for more information on this committee.

A BHAC member must regularly participate in committee meetings and may also have to participate in subcommittee meetings, projects and presentations. BHAC meetings will be held in Austin about once every three months or at the call of the presiding officer. *To the extent permitted by the current state budget, a committee*

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*member may be repaid for their travel expenses to and from meetings if money is available and in accordance with the HHSC Travel Policy.*

If you would like to apply to serve on the committee, please complete and return the attached application by **August 3**. It is preferred that you submit your application electronically, but you may submit the application by email, mail or fax. Here are the addresses:

Email:  
HHS\_Appointments@hhsc.state.tx.us  
Attn: BHAC

Mail:  
Texas Health and Human Services Commission  
P.O. Box 13247, Mail Code 0223  
Austin, TX 78711  
Attn: Susanna Sparkman

Fax:  
512-206-3984  
Attn: BHAC

HHSC will notify applicants if they have been selected to serve as a member of the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee.

In selecting members to serve on the committee, HHSC considers the applicants' qualifications, background and interest in serving on the committee. HHSC tries to choose committee members who represent the diversity of all Texans. For that reason, HHSC considers applicants' ethnicity, gender and geographic location.

For more information about the committee, [visit the committee website](#) or contact Adriana Flores at [BHAC@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:BHAC@hhsc.state.tx.us).

For more information about applying to be on the committee, or for Americans with Disabilities Act accommodations, email Susanna Sparkman at [HHS\\_Appointments@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:HHS_Appointments@hhsc.state.tx.us) or call 512-438-2897.