

Governance Committee Charter

I. Introduction and Statement of Purpose:

The Executive Council of the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities approved the establishment of the Governance Committee on June 23, 2003. The purpose of the Governance Committee is to advance the legislative and budgetary interests of the Association's membership by helping to maintain the integrity of the community behavioral health system and to ensure adequate funding of that system, thereby allowing Boards to purchase quality alcohol, drug, mental health and Medicaid services. This will be accomplished by:

- Reviewing all pending state and federal legislation and related amendments that impact the Association;
- Proposing a recommended course of action on each bill and amendment reviewed;
- Developing Position Statements and Action Alerts;
- Developing legislative initiatives;
- Taking the lead on advocacy efforts;
- Reviewing Administrative Rule Position Statements;
- Proposing a recommended course of action on for the biennial budget and capital budget submissions;
- Developing Position Statements;
- Developing budget initiatives; and
- Coordinating political activities.

II. Committee Organization:

The Executive Council is responsible for appointing the chairperson of the Governance Committee. The chairperson must be a Board Executive Director and member of the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities. Other members include:

- A minimum of three Ad Hoc Board Executives or their designees;
- A representative from the Kids Committee;
- A representative from the Clinical Leaders Committee;
- A representative from the Alcohol and Drug Division; and
- A representative from the Mental Health Division;

The Governance Committee will meet at least once every two months. The Committee has the authority to appoint subcommittees as needed, and may assign ad hoc members to serve on these subcommittees.

III. Committee Responsibilities:

The Governance Committee shall review all legislation, including budget initiatives, that impacts the areas of alcohol and drug addiction, mental health or Medicaid. After a review of each initiative, the Committee will recommend one of the following courses of action:

- Oppose
- Support
- Interested Party
- No Position

In the event that the Governance Committee recommends that the Association either oppose or support a bill, a position statement will be drafted and submitted to the Executive Council for ratification. If approved by Executive Council, the Association staff and/or lobbyist will take needed steps to communicate the Association's position to the bill sponsor and other interested parties.

The Governance Committee shall also be responsible for developing The Association's budgetary positions in advance of the Administration's adoption of the biennial appropriation budget and the biennial capital budget for approval by the Executive Council. Once approved, Governance Committee members will work with the Association staff to advance the position of The Association with members of the Administration and the General Assembly. The Committee will also be responsible for reviewing and developing a position on any budget corrections bills.

The Governance Committee shall also be responsible for developing plans for the annual "Day at the Statehouse" event. The Committee shall also be responsible for all political activities approved by the Executive Council.

The Committee shall also accept special assignments from the Association's Executive Council, Mental Health Division and the Alcohol and Drug Division. In the event that the Committee determines it would like to take on a specific task, it must first seek the approval of the Executive Council.

The Chairperson shall provide a report of the Committee's work at all membership meetings.

IV. Staff Association Responsibilities

A member of the Association staff and the Association's lobbyist shall be present at each meeting. Association staff will be responsible for maintaining the Governance Committee minutes at each meeting, and will circulate the minutes to the full membership no later than 7 working days after each meeting.

The Association staff and/or lobbyist shall monitor all legislation relating to issues of interest to the Board Association and update the Committee members on a regular basis. Staff will also be responsible for advancing any legislative initiatives approved by the Executive Council. Staff shall keep Committee members abreast of amendments by phone or e-mail and Committee members may be asked to provide a reaction. Based on the feedback, staff shall develop a position statement and submit it to the Association President for final approval.

The Association staff and/or lobbyist shall monitor all budget initiatives relating to issues of interest to The Association and update the Governance Committee members on a regular basis. Staff will also be responsible for advancing any positions on any budget initiatives approved by the Executive Council.