

ADVOCACY WORKSHEET

Doing Your Homework

Do you really understand the issue?

- How common/widespread is the problem?
- How did we get here?
- What has already been done and why?
- What hasn't been tried and why?
- What might work and why?
- What competing interests may be at stake?

At what venue will you make your public statement?

- | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Board | <input type="checkbox"/> County Board of Supervisors | <input type="checkbox"/> CalMHSA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Committee of MH Board | <input type="checkbox"/> City Council | <input type="checkbox"/> CA Senate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MHA Steering Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> MHSOAC | <input type="checkbox"/> CA Assembly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Subcommittee of MHA Steering Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> DHCS | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> OSHPD | |

What authority does this body have to address the issue?

Why is this the most appropriate forum to make your statement?

When, where, and at what time will the meeting take place?

What are the political backgrounds/leanings of the members?

- What do they care about?
- How have they voted on similar issues in the past?
- What arguments might be most convincing to each member?

ACCESS California is a program of NorCal MHA funded by the California Mental Health Services Act (Prop 63) and by the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC)



Is the issue you're speaking about on the agenda?

How much time do you have to speak?

Are there any other procedural rules this body follows that you need to keep in mind?

- Brown Act/Bagley-Keene Act
 - City or county ordinances
 - Bylaws/articles
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Making Your Point

Who are you and where are you from? (1 sentence)

What is the issue? (1 sentence)

What is your ask? What **exactly** do you want the body to do? (1 sentence)

How is the issue impacting you, people close to you, people like you, and/or the community at large?
(2-3 sentences)

Why is the current situation not working/proposed action ineffective? (1-2 sentences)

What is the possible solution? (1-2 sentences)

Why is the solution better than the status quo/proposed action? (3-4 sentences)

Restate your ask/exactly what you are asking the body to do. (1 sentence)

Thank the body. (1 sentence)
