

Consolidated Planning Advisory Workgroup (CPAW)

Working Agreement

The counsel and advice of all participants in the CPAW process is highly valued in planning and evaluating Mental Health Services Act funded programs and services. In order for all voices to be expressed in a productive, safe and respectful environment, the CPAW body has developed and adopted the following set of self-governance agreements for all participants at all types of CPAW meetings:

1. Come prepared to discuss the published agenda items and handouts.
2. We are committed to starting and finishing on time. Please help us by arriving on time, speaking only to the topic at hand, and coming back from breaks on time.
3. Turn your cell phone ringers off; take any calls outside.
4. Avoid providing any distractions, such as side bar conversations.
5. Wait to be recognized before speaking, and keep your comments brief.
6. Please identify to the group your perspective, affiliation or potential conflict of interest if you are participating in discussions that lead to group positions or recommendations.
7. When internal group decisions need to be made, such as CPAW or sub-committee governance issues, members will attempt to reach consensus, or, if necessary, decide by a simple majority. For a group position or recommendation made through CPAW to Contra Costa Behavioral Health Services, participants may be asked if they support, do not support, or do not wish to take a position. The number of CPAW members and non-members in each response category should be reported.
8. It is OK to disagree politely and respectfully, as different perspectives are welcomed and encouraged.
9. Please refrain from criticizing in a negative manner a specific person or agency during the meeting, or in group communications. Outside of the meeting please speak to the staff supporting the meeting for assistance in having your concerns heard and addressed through the appropriate channels.
10. An individual may be asked to leave should he/she behave in a manner that threatens the safety of our group members, or does not honor the terms of this working agreement.