

GHA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COUNCIL CHARTER

Purpose: To provide strategic, policy, and educational guidance on behavioral health care in the state of Georgia. The GHA Behavioral Health Council will work with various internal and external stakeholders to explore challenges for psychiatric hospitals and behavioral health service providers generally, identify future trends, raise awareness of behavioral health issues, and recommend to the GHA Board of Trustees public policy strategies to support behavioral health services.

Functions: Provide a forum where representatives of specialty and acute care hospitals providing behavioral health services can regularly meet, share best practices, network, and discuss issues affecting their specialty.

Work with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and other state agencies or partners on behavioral health initiatives.

Provide recommendations for educational programs on issues that affect behavioral health providers specifically and health care providers generally.

Provide feedback and guidance to GHA on behavioral health care issues and explore and explain the impact of these issues for purposes of advocacy and education.

Provide GHA with advice and counsel regarding ways to enhance Georgians' access to patient-centered, quality behavioral health care.

Work with GHA and the American Hospital Association, as appropriate, to provide input and guidance on federal behavioral health issues.

Members: *Eligibility*
The Behavioral Health Council shall include GHA member psychiatric hospitals, psychiatric residential treatment facilities, and acute care hospitals with distinct part inpatient psychiatric or substance use disorder units.

Council members shall be represented by their respective CEO, behavioral health administrator, or an individual who is designated by the CEO and who is in a position to represent the behavioral health interests of entire organization.

Officers: *Number of Officers*
The officers of the Behavioral Health Council shall include a chair and chair-elect.



Nomination and Election

The Behavioral Health Council shall nominate and elect an active Council member in good standing to serve as chair-elect of the Council. The chair-elect shall automatically be nominated to accede to the position of chair at the end of the chair's term.

Term

The chair and chair-elect shall serve for a term of two (2) years beginning at adjournment of the GHA annual meeting.

Vacancies

In the event that the chair is unable for any reason to fulfill his or her term, the chair-elect shall automatically accede to the position of chair and shall fulfill both the chair's unexpired term and the following term. In the event that the chair is unable for any reason to fulfill his or her term and the chair-elect is unable to accede to the position of chair, the Behavioral Health Council shall be authorized, at any meeting of the Behavioral Health Council or by written ballot to select from among its members a chair of the Behavioral Health Council to serve until the end of the chair's unexpired term. In the event of a vacancy in the office of chair-elect, either because the chair-elect has acceded to the position of chair or for any other reason, the Behavioral Health Council may elect a chair-elect at any meeting by written ballot.

Duties

In addition to the duties normally associated with such office, the chair of the Behavioral Health Council shall serve as an ex officio member of the GHA Board of Trustees and represent the views and priorities of the Behavioral Health Council to the GHA Board of Trustees.