

Changes to the Community Mental Health Act (CMHA)

A summary of new provisions in the Community Mental Health Act as passed in House Bill 4951 by the 103rd General Assembly on May 29, 2024.

The bill modernizes language and requirements to better reflect the current needs and realities of the community mental health authorities.

These changes to the CMHA are effective immediately upon becoming law.

Board Representation

Updates community mental health board member composition to prioritize representation from individuals with professional or lived expertise in mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse. General public representation may also be considered when there are gaps in board duties/qualifications from within the CMHA stated categories.

Report Deadlines

Extends the deadline to publish the annual budget and report in the 708 board's local newspaper from 120 to 180 days. This also modifies the deadline to submit the annual report summarizing prior year's financials from within 90 days to within 180 days from the end of that fiscal year.

Vacancies

Updates language allowing for vacant seats to be filled in the same manner as original appointments with the advice of the community mental health board, who may establish a policy and procedure for the acceptance and review of applications from interested residents prior to making a recommendation to the appointing authority.

Governmental Authority

Modernizes language so that references to the Illinois Department of Human Services also includes any other appropriate local or state governmental agency supporting these services.

Workforce Development

Allows for 708 boards to fund and support local efforts regarding educational assistance, student loan repayment, professional certification and licensure assistance, and internship stipends to address workforce shortages.

Ballot Language

Provides guidance and specificity around ballot language to be used when a municipality is seeking to establish a new 708 board.

Property Tax Extension Law Limit (PTELL)

Emphasizes language in the Community Mental Health Act that was adopted in 1998 as an amendment (PA90-652) to the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) that distinguishes that taxes collected through mental health boards shall not be included in any limitation.