

The **Mental Health Association of San Francisco (MHASF)** is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization serving the communities of San Francisco and the surrounding Bay Area through mental health advocacy, education, research, and support since 1947.

MHASF's **mission** is to cultivate peer leadership, build community, and advance social justice in mental health.

For 70 years, MHASF has embodied the progressive **vision** San Francisco is known for. We have advocated against stigma and discrimination in mental health across diverse communities and changed policy, perception, and ultimately people. As a peer-run organization, we know that systems change comes when those affected by the issues are centered in the solutions. Looking ahead to a future of mental healthcare focused on holistic, person-centered, and recovery-oriented services, MHASF and our peer providers are well-positioned to be at the core of these emerging mental health systems.

Currently, MHASF **works** to provide low-threshold, peer-based support services addressing underserved needs in individual, group, community-based, and telehealth formats. We develop peer mental health workers and advocates through training, mentorship, and work and volunteer opportunities. We also lead the San Francisco community in providing progressive, innovative training and technical assistance on recovery-oriented mental health topics for businesses, community-based organizations, professional associations, employers of peer staff, and the general public.

The **role of our Board of Directors** is to support the mission, vision, and work of MHASF; promote strategic initiatives; raise funds; authorize MHASF's annual operating budget; develop sound Board and organizational policies; ensure the agency's legal and fiscal compliance and accountability; set Board priorities; evaluate the Executive Director; and ensure the quality and integrity of programming and services.

We **seek candidates who** bring specific professional or personal skills and expertise relevant to the work of the Board and to the needs of the agency, and we strongly encourage interest from people with personal lived experience of mental health challenges. In particular, MHASF seeks members with legal, communications, financial, human resources, executive management, consumer advocacy, public mental health, and tech backgrounds, and we highly value previous board of directors experience, though previous experience is not required.

Board Members contribute to the work and sustainability of MHASF in a wide variety of ways based on individual strengths and professional expertise. These might include:

- Networking with and soliciting donations from corporations, foundations, and individuals
- Representing MHASF policy stances in communication with public officials
- Connecting executive staff with contacts at potential partner organizations
- Supporting MHASF events, such as our annual conference, through event promotion and attendance
- Identifying opportunities for grant applications and other funding sources
- Advocating for MHASF programs and progressive mental health policy at community meetings and forums
- Leading the design of Board internal procedures and evaluation processes
- Coordinating mixer and appreciation events between Board members and MHASF staff
- Identifying Board continuing education needs and coordinating guest speakers or trainers
- Consulting on MHASF policy updates, handbook revisions, and compliance
- Procuring in-kind donations of technology and supplies to support MHASF programs
- Promoting new Board Member recruitment and onboarding new Members

The **Board of Directors meets bi-monthly** from 5:30 – 7:30pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month (six meetings per calendar year, with additional meetings called if needed). The Board also maintains between four to six Committees, which meet at minimum on a bi-monthly basis on months when a General Board meeting does not take place. In general, Board Members serve on both the Board and at least one Board Committee.

Prospective Board Member candidates may apply for consideration through our [online application form](http://mentalhealthsf.org/bod), which can be found on the MHASF website at <http://mentalhealthsf.org/bod>.