

League of Women Voters of San Diego County  
Mental Health Position Update, February 2015  
Discussion Guide

(Check with the unit chair about how much time you have to present the study and watch the clock.)

This is an update to the original position adopted in 1997. The committee looked at the current position and studied whether changing times and community needs required changes to the position. But, just like a full study, we need your consensus in support of the proposed changes or the new wording including your recommendations.

You have received several documents by email:

- The Study Report (every-member-tool)
- 1997 Position Objectives
- 2015 Updated Position Objectives
- Glossary of Terms (prepared by the committee)
- Public Mental Health Funding Summary (prepared by the committee)
- Transformation Tables for Children's System of Care and for Adults/Older Adults (from the County)
- Backgrounder (prepared by the committee)
- Faces of Mental Illness Stories (prepared by the committee)
- Other documents such as the Resources and References List are only on the ILO website, [sdculo.ca.lwvnet.org](http://sdculo.ca.lwvnet.org).

There are a few extra copies of the Study Report, Glossary of Terms, and Funding documents available as well as County tables listing the changes between the time of the original study and recent years.

Before we look at the documents, we have a short quiz for you. Please pair up and I'll distribute the Matching Quiz to each pair. Working together for about five minutes, see what you come up with.

(After five to ten minutes, depending on how quickly people seem to complete the quiz, stop and ask one brave pair to read their matches. Wait for disagreements and then ask another pair to find the correct answers in the Glossary. Be sure to applaud the brave pair and Glossary-reading pair.)

*15 minutes used*

Since this study was done in a short time frame, we had to be selective about interviewees. We chose people who had the most information to share with us. Some of it was official, some closer to deep background from people who were very open with us. For that reason, we haven't attributed any statement to any specific person. Note that the study committee members who did the interviews are, themselves, knowledgeable. The references and resources we collected plus links to find them online are on the ILO website.

Let's move on to reviewing the current position objectives. (Ask for a volunteer to read these.)

Now, let's hit the highlights of what the committee learned. Going around the room from where we left off, read a highlight from each paragraph in this section.

Before we move on, would you now say that the cartoon on the Report's cover page fits our discussion? (You may need to bring the conversation around to how precious treatment is and how many obstacles seem to stand between the individual/family and that treatment.)

*30 minutes used*

Finally, we've come to the committee-suggested wording for each objective of the updated position. I'll read the suggested wording and then ask for your consensus to support the new wording or your consensus with suggested changes. (Make notes of any suggested changes.)

*60 minutes used*