

**COORDINATING ADVOCACY IN RURAL COUNTIES  
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*Providing advocacy services in rural counties is a unique challenge. Advocates may struggle to provide adequate services over wide geographical areas with limited staff times. Because it is common for people to be placed in facilities outside of their homes counties. The purpose of this workshop is to provide a forum for rural advocates to problem solve common issues, to coordinate services across county lines and to share materials.*

**WORKSHOP TOPICS**

A. Advocacy Staffing

Is your county providing the minimum staff of 1 FTE per 500,000 county populations?

Do barriers exist which encumber your ability to provide adequate services?

B. Advocacy Over County Lines

Do mental health clients need to go out of county for services? What kind of services?

How do you assist clients with complaints when they are placed out-of-county?

When do we handle the complaint, and when do we refer to the advocate where the client is residing?

- conservatorship/legal status issues
- patients' rights issues
- services (medi-Cal) issues

C. Strategies for working together

Expectations – understanding our working relationships

Sharing materials – Advocacy Referral Form Letter