

2025 Current Fiscal Year Report: Advisory Committee for Women's Services

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Health and Human
Services

2. Fiscal Year

2025

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Advisory Committee for Women's
Services

3b. GSA Committee No.

188

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
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No 06/15/2024 06/15/2026

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

N/A

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

42 U.S.C. 290aa

13. Effective Date

07/10/1992

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for
this Fiscal Year

17a. Open 0 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 0

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18e. Total Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

In accordance with section 501(f) of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. 290aa, the SAMHSA Associate Administrator for Women's Services (AAWS) shall provide leadership and guidance in developing and implementing agency plans to meet women's substance abuse and mental health services needs; coordinate and

promote collaboration among the three SAMHSA Centers, and with other U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) components; develop policies and programs regarding women's issues; develop plans to standardize and enhance the collection of data on women's health; establish and operate the mandated agency Coordinating Committee for Women's Services; promote the allocation of sufficient resources for women's services within each SAMHSA Center; establish and support the mandated ACWS; ensure the establishment, maintenance and operation of a program to provide information on women's substance abuse and mental health services; assure the conduct of appropriate evaluation of women's services; and monitor and report on agency recruitment and hiring of women in senior positions.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The ACWS is comprised of ten members appointed by the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, SAMHSA and 1 federal employee (Associate Administrator for Women's Services). A majority of the members are women who are not employees of the Federal Government. Members include physicians, practitioners, consumer advocates, treatment providers, criminal justice professionals, professors, researchers and other health professionals, whose clinical practice, specialization, or professional expertise include a significant focus on women's substance abuse and mental health conditions. Appointments are made by paying close attention to experience, expertise and gender representation, as well as equitable race/ethnicity representation and geographical distribution. All members participate

fully in policy discussions and program development, each bringing to bear their own unique perspective.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The committee met three times in FY24. April 2nd, 2024 in person, April 17th virtually, and August 27, 2024 in-person. On April 2, the committee discussed the ACWS Maternal Mental Health Subcommittee work and the national strategy for maternal mental health. Additionally, a discussion continued around women's behavioral health. During the 2nd half of the meeting the Maternal Mental Health Subcommittee members joined the meeting, along with Assistant Secretary for Health, Dr. Admiral Level and Assistant Secretary for Substance Use and Mental Health, Dr. Delphin-Rittmon. During the April 17th meeting, there was a continuation of the National Maternal Mental Health Strategy and the ACWS members approved recommendations from the subcommittee on a report to congress and strategy direction. The August 2024 meeting provided an update on the Maternal Mental Health Subcommittee work, provided an overview of pregnant and parenting women, and introduced new work in the field of eating disorders, and gender based violence. It is anticipated that two 1-day face-to-face or virtual meetings will be held in FY 2025, thus adhering to the Committee's mandate and continuing function of advising SAMHSA on the appropriate policies and activities with respect to women's substance abuse and mental health services and on the improvement in the participation of women in the Agency's workforce. The meetings are relevant to SAMHSA because they allow the Agency to secure the professional expertise necessary to accomplish its

mission and maintain the public's trust.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The ACWS is composed of experts whose clinical practice, specialization or professional expertise includes a significant focus on women's substance abuse and mental health conditions. The direction, scope, balance and emphasis of the advice received from this group cannot be obtained from Agency staff or from other established sources because the membership of the Committee is constituted to meet the specific requirements of the mandated mission of the Committee and of the Agency. Moreover, the Committee provides a direct link between SAMHSA and the field and is invaluable in helping SAMHSA to be responsive to the needs of women with or at risk for addictive and mental health disorders.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

N/A

21. Remarks

Designated Federal Officer

Valerie Kolick Team Supervisor

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Clark			CEO, California Council of	Special Government
Harvey, Le	12/01/2021	11/30/2025	Community Behavioral Health	Employee (SGE)
Ondra			Agencies	Member
				Special Government
Frederick, Tanisha	03/31/2022	02/01/2026	Founder Beautiful As You Are	Employee (SGE)
				Member

Harris, Octavia	03/01/2022	02/28/2026	Veteran Care	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Nadkarni, Lavita	10/01/2019	06/01/2027	Associate Dean Forensic Studies University of Denver	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Nicholson, Joanne	12/01/2021	11/30/2025	Professor, Bradeis University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Sheth, Nima	11/22/2022	12/31/2024	AAWS	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 6

Narrative Description

The Advisory Committee for Women's Services (ACWS) provides guidance and advice to the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, SAMHSA, on the appropriate activities to be undertaken by the Agency with respect to women's substance abuse and mental health services. SAMHSA is directed by Congress to target effectively substance abuse and mental health services to the people most in need and to translate research in these areas more effectively and more rapidly into the general health care system. Over the years SAMHSA has demonstrated that - prevention works, treatment is effective, and people recover from mental and substance use disorders. Behavioral health services improve health status and reduce health care and other costs to society. Continued improvement in the delivery and financing of prevention, treatment and recovery support services provides a cost effective opportunity to advance and protect the Nation's health. In FY 2024, the ACWS supported the Agency's mission SAMHSA's to lead public health and service delivery efforts that promote mental health, prevent substance misuse, and provide treatments and supports to foster recovery while ensuring equitable access and better outcomes, and through ACWS, identifying issues/problems specifically related to women and girls,

maternal mental health, women veterans, and gender based violence.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

N/A

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

Committee recommendations and suggestions may lead to savings over time. However, the savings may not be realized for years and are difficult to determine.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee

for the life of the committee?

129

Number of Recommendations Comments

Between FYs 1994 and 2024, the ACWS produced approximately 129 recommendations. During FY 2024, the following recommendations were made: (1) The ACWS has been instrumental in helping to develop the National Maternal Mental Health Strategy with hundreds of recommendations over the year; (2) it was recommended that SAMHSA zone in on adolescent girls and depression, which is currently in action at SAMHSA

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

70%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

Since the beginning of the ACWS, approximately 60% of the Committee's recommendations have been fully implemented by the Agency. For example, SAMHSA is ensuring that cultural competency perspective and trauma informed care is incorporated into all of its strategic initiatives. SAMHSA connected the National Judicial Opioid Task Force with Single State Agencies. SAMHSA worked with OWH/OASH to publish the Re-entry guide which was released Spring of FY 2020. Additionally, SAMHSA is continuing to research the best practices for telehealth, sustainability, increase in BH services for women and children, furthering of data collection and analysis, and incorporating trauma-informed care through primary care providers. SAMHSA continues to receive feedback and implement suggestions from the ACWS for the White House National Plan to End Gender Based Violence, and the cross-agency Maternal Mental Health Task Force. ACWS members are also leads for the National Strategy on Maternal Mental Health through the maternal mental health subcommittee. Furthermore, SAMHSA is currently beginning a year long project to determine strategy around adolescent girls and depression rates.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

10%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

During the life of the Committee, approximately 10% of its recommendations have been partially implemented due to restrictions imposed by legislative/fiscal/programmatic concerns and/or superseding agency priorities.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

Status reports on actions by the Agency on matters that have come before the Committee are provided at Committee meetings. The Agency provides feedback to the members in the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, SAMHSA and Associate Administrator for Women's Services' Reports provided to members in each meeting. The Agency ensures that complete meeting minutes are prepared and circulates them in draft to the members for clearance and approval at the next official meeting. When the ACWS votes to pass resolutions/recommendations for the Secretary or the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, SAMHSA, it is SAMHSA's policy to ensure responses to the Committee are provided within a prescribed time frame. Summaries of information may be mailed, e-mailed, telephoned or faxed to Committee members. Communications from SAMHSA staff to ACWS members include: issue papers, fact sheets, press releases, reports and other documents. ACWS members also have access to senior management and technical experts, when needed. The public can obtain information on the SAMHSA website:

https://www.samhsa.gov/about-us/advisory-councils/meetings?field_council_list_value%5B%5D:

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

The ACWS has made recommendations to disparity statements that have been added into grant language, and has helped to reprioritize strategies in multiple areas such as maternal mental health, veterans services, gender based violence, adolescent girls mental health, and maternal mental health.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

N/A

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

N/A