

It's Been A Busy Year For CBHA!

2018 has been a busy time for our association and members!

The policy and advocacy arm of our organization (with Rusty Selix stepping down as Policy Director) was filled with the addition of Le Ondra Clark Harvey as our new Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs in January of this year. She is out on maternity leave spending time with her new son and family, and we wish her all the best during this time. We also welcomed Jay Calcagno as our new Legislative Coordinator in February. Together they have overseen our efforts focused in both the legislative arena and in the policy and regulatory areas. Le Ondra immediately focused her time and efforts on one of our key successes for this year, the inclusion of \$10 million in funding for the Workforce, Education & Training (WET) Program through the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD). CBHA took the lead on this effort and its success was due to a great coalition of supporters that Le Ondra put together. The funding for the final year of the WET Program will focus on loan repayment and education stipends. We are very proud of this accomplishment as it was one of the few requests for budget items in behavioral health that was included in the final budget.

On the legislative side, we looked at over 250 bills that touched on behavioral health. The bills were narrowed down, and we officially tracked 157. Of the 157, we were in 'Support' on 88 of the bills, had a 'Watch' on 68, and officially 'Opposed' 1 bill, AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer).

Of the 157 bills, 34 have been 'Chaptered', meaning they passed through the Legislature and have been signed by the Governor. 44 made it through the Legislative and are awaiting the Governor's decision, and 79 failed to make it through. The bills we supported cover a variety of areas including foster youth, health facilities, housing, opioid use, youth services, mental health in schools, workforce development, LGBTQ services, conservatorship and workplace mental health. As the Governor continues to work on the bills awaiting his decision we are updating our list and will send out a final report card on our efforts after the deadline for the Governor to act on the bills.

In the meantime, we are already working on developing our Policy Platform for 2019. The working document will be presented at our Fall Policy Forum, scheduled for October 11-12, 2018 at the Renaissance Hotel in Newport Beach, CA. Speakers already confirmed for the forum include Senator Ricardo Lara, Assemblymember Sydney Kamlager-Dove, Rebecca Farley David from the National Council for Behavioral Health, and Autumn Boylan from the Department of Health Care Services. We have a key panel to kick off the afternoon focused on children's mental health needs with Patrick Gardner and Alex Briscoe from Young Minds Advocacy, and Dr. Rhea Boyd of The Children's Trust. It will be facilitated by CHBA Board Member Debbie Manners, CEO of Hathaway Sycamore.

Stay tuned for more exciting news on our focus for 2019 in our next general newsletter in October!

Paul Curtis
Executive Director