

CBHA July Updates

Greetings!

This month marked the celebration of the independence of our nation and commemorated the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. July also commemorates National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA):

- Over 70% of Black/African American adolescents with a major depressive episode did not receive treatment for their condition.
- Almost 25% of adolescents with a major depressive episode in the last year were Hispanic/Latino.
- Asian American adults were less likely to use mental health services than any other racial/ethnic groups.
- In the past year, nearly 1 in 10 American Indian or Alaska Native young adults had serious thoughts of suicide.
- In the past year, 1 in 7 Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander adults had a diagnosable mental illness.

Governor Brown signed the budget on June 27, 2018. **CBHA is proud that our budget proposal of extending the Workforce Education and Training (WET) stipend program for one year was approved**, and we are grateful to the 23 organizations that signed on to our budget proposal and advocated for the extension. The \$10 million dollars allocated for our proposal will support stipends for: social workers, psychiatric nurse practitioners and psychologists. Specifically, of the funds appropriated up to \$5 million is available for stipend programs and up to \$5 million is available for the Education Capacity Program. Of the amount allocated to stipend programs, \$2.5 million is available for stipends for psychiatric nurse practitioners, \$5 million is available for stipends for clinical psychologists, and \$2 million is available for stipends for social workers. Of the amount allocated to the Education Capacity Program, up to \$5 million is available to fund residency and training slots in psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner education programs (see Senate Bill 840 of 2018).

We are engaged in discussions with the California Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC) and the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) as they craft the next legislatively mandated 5-year plan for the WET programs that counties will be expected to administer. We are also working with stakeholders to create a plan for funding the WET programs 2019 and beyond.

Currently, the Legislature is on summer recess. Legislators are in their districts or on special study missions. CBHA staff is working with legislative staff to firm up negotiations on bills we have been tracking. We are grateful for the CBHA Policy Committee members who have worked with us to refine our bill list and make decisions about positions on legislation. When recess concludes in early August, CBHA policy staff will tracking legislation as it moves to fiscal committees, the floors of each house and then the Governor's desk.

We are already busy working on our legislative platform for 2018-2019 and look forward to sharing this with our members during our Fall Policy Forum in Southern California and with our colleagues in allied behavioral health organizations and the Legislature once the Legislative Session commences in December 2018.

In service,
Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Ph.D.
Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs