

The Month to Celebrate Independence and Promote Awareness

Greetings Members!

This month we celebrated the independence of our nation and commemorated the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. This month is also recognized as 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.

CBHA is proud of the clinicians who work in the trenches to provide needed services to promote the mental health of racially and ethnically diverse groups.

Budget

There is a lot happening with the new Administration. Governor Newsom finalized his budget which can be found [here](#).

CBHA is proud that the advocacy we led for amelioration of the workforce shortage, our top member-identified issue, resulted in over 80 million dollars being set aside to fund the Workforce, Education and Training efforts of the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development's Five-Year Workforce Plan. This plan outlines how to bolster the behavioral health workforce across the state, and we are proud to have partnered with the California Behavioral Health Planning Commission and the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists to achieve a successful outcome.

Legislation

Our [Youth Mental Health First Aid](#) bill, [SB 428](#), sailed through the Assembly Education committee with bi-partisan support. We were put on the consent agenda for the Assembly Health Committee hearing and received unanimous support. Next, we will lobby for the bill to be removed from the Appropriations Committee suspense file and be sent to the floors of each Legislative House, and then to the Governor's desk for signing. If you are interested in showing support for this measure, please reference the [sample support letter](#) and send to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. All letters should be submitted through the [Advocacy Letter Portal](#).

CBHA also continues to work with Assemblymember Adam Gray's office on [AB 763](#). This bill would require that a stakeholder group be formed to determine the necessary intake forms for children receiving services through EPSDT. The bill was recently heard in the Senate Health Committee and is headed to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

DHCS Advisory Groups

The DHCS leadership will continue to hold Stakeholder Advisor Committee meetings which address health related topics. DHCS has also convened a new Behavioral Health Stakeholder Advisory Committee that will focus exclusively on behavioral health topics. The meetings are scheduled for July 11, 2019, and CBHA staff will be monitoring them. An update on the meetings will be provided during our next scheduled [policy call on Friday July 12, 2019](#).

Mental Health of Older Adults

The Governor has also been focusing on the mental health care of older adults. He signed an executive order last month that directs a Cabinet level workgroup on aging to be formed. There will also be a stakeholder advisory committee with two sub-groups - one on research and one on long term services and support. The Plan will be published by October 2020.

I was recently asked to contribute to a Sacramento Bee Op-ed about the health of older adults in California which can be accessed [here](#).

Proposition 64 Tax Revenue

CBHA continues to advocate for the use of Proposition 64 tax revenues for treatment services for youth. CBHA has joined stakeholders who advocate for treatment services being a priority and those who advocate for prevention services being a priority in a coalition. CBHA has led the group in creating a document that reflects the values of the two coalitions and is working to set up a meeting with the Administration to discuss the recommendations outlined in the document. CBHA staff will keep you updated on the progress of the coalitions.

Policy committees are wrapping up bill hearings, and the Legislature will begin summer recess later this month. 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 track legislation as it moves to fiscal committees, the floors of each house, and then the Governor's desk.

We look forward to continuing to represent the priorities of our members before the Legislature and Executive Branch.

In Service,
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CBHA