

CBHA Works with Partners to Advocate for Behavioral Health Workforce and Youth Mental Health

Greetings Colleagues!

CBHA has been busy collaborating with several organizations on legislative proposals. We are thrilled to have received support from several of our member agencies and allied behavioral health organizations. Whether you wrote a letter, testified at a hearing, or provided technical assistance, we are grateful. Below, please review the status of our proposals, and please contact us if you would like to register your support.

Sponsored proposals:

[Youth Mental Health First Aid](#): Our Youth Mental Health First Aid proposals continue to gain momentum. We have a strong coalition of co-sponsors including CBHDA, Children Now, and Lady Gaga's *Born This Way Foundation* (BTWF) who are advocating for funding for a school-based pilot program to train school personnel in Youth Mental Health First Aid. The proposal has been heard by the Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services in the Senate and is scheduled to be heard in the Assembly on May 6.

The coalition is also sponsoring [SB 428](#), which was heard before the Senate Education Committee on April 10, 2019 **and passed out of the Education Committee with a 7 to 0 vote!** This bill is authored by Senator Dr. Richard Pan and Senator Anthony Portantino and Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula and Senator Scott Weiner are co-authors. The bill was [recently amended](#) to require Local Education Agencies to pay for Youth Mental Health First Aid training, and to provide it to at least 10 percent of classified and 10 percent of the non-classified staff. **We thank the following organizations for writing letters of support:**

Born This Way Foundation
California Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
California Association of Private School Organizations
California Catholic Conference
California State PTA
Children Now
County Behavioral Health Directors Association
Disability Rights California
Hathaway-Sycamores
Lincoln
National Council for Behavioral Health
Plumas County Office of Education
Plumas Unified School District
Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition
Steinberg Institute

Workforce, Education and Training Trust Fund: We also have proposals that address the behavioral health workforce shortage. CBHA is collaborating with the California Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC) and the California Association of Marriage Family Therapists (CAMFT) to sponsor a budget proposal, and Senator Anna Caballero is championing the proposal. Our request is for \$70 million dollars to create a funding source for the efforts that are detailed in OSHPD's statutorily mandated [Five-Year Plan](#). The co-sponsors presented this proposal to the Senate Budget Committee's Sub Committee on Health and Human Services, and we will keep you posted as the proposal heads to the Assembly.

[SB 539](#) (Caballero) will identify additional funding sources for the Five-Year Plan including a percentage of the growth funds of MHSAs and an option for counties to direct funds to a statewide Workforce, Education and Training Trust Fund. This bill will be heard in the Senate Health Committee today. **We thank the following organizations for writing letters of support:**

California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists
California Behavioral Health Planning Council
American Academy of Pediatrics, California
Association of California Healthcare Districts
Bill Wilson Center
Bonita House, Inc.
California Alliance of Child and Family Services
California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions
California Hospital Association
California Psychological Association
County Behavioral Health Directors Association
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
East Bay Agency for Children
Fred Finch Youth Center
Hillview Mental Health Center, Inc.
Mental Health America of California
National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter
Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition

[AB 763](#) (Gray) was recently introduced. CBHA is working with the California Alliance for Children and Family Services and the California Children's Hospital Association to provide technical assistance on this bill. This legislation will require the DHCS to convene a stakeholder group of behavioral health advocates. This group will be tasked with determining the mandatory forms to be utilized by Medi-Cal managed care contractors, including mental health plan contractors and contractor provider networks, for performing the intake of, the assessment of, and the treatment planning for, Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are eligible for specialty mental health services under the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program. **The bill was heard in the Assembly Health Committee on April 23, 2019 and passed out of committee with a 15-0 vote. We thank the following organizations for writing letters of support:**

A Greater Hope
 Alum Rock Counseling Center
 American Academy of Pediatrics, California
 Association of Community Human Service Agencies
 California Alliance of Child and Family Services
 California Children's Hospital Association
 Case De Amparo
 Chamberlain's Youth Services
 Children Now
 Children's Specialty Care Coalition
 East Bay Agency for Children
 Edgewood Center for Children and Families
 Family Care Network, Inc.
 Fred Finch Youth Center
 Gateway Residential Programs
 Hamburger Home DBA Aviva Family and Children's Services
 Hathaway-Sycamores
 Hillsides
 La Clinica De La Raza, Inc.
 Lilliput Children's Services DBA Lilliput Families
 Maryvale
 Mountain Valley Child and Family Services, Inc.
 Portia Bell Hume Behavioral Health and Training Center
 Promesa Behavioral Health
 Ray of Hope/Valley Teen Ranch
 Rive Stones Residential Treatment Services Inc.
 Seneca Family of Agencies
 Stanford Youth Solutions
 Stars Behavioral Health Group
 The Village Family Services
 TLC Child and Family Services
 Trinity Youth Services
 Uplift Family Services
 Walden Family Services
 Western Center on Law & Poverty, Inc.

Not only is CBHA building relationships with other organizations, and making change via legislation, but we are also leading a new partnership with behavioral health organizations that share a common mission of promoting patient access to medications. At the time of his retirement, Rusty Selix asked CBHA to convene the California Access Coalition (CAC), a group that he led for 23 years. CBHA staff have worked to revitalize the CAC. The first membership meeting was held earlier this month with representatives from several [member organizations](#) in attendance. The CAC has plans to continue working to educate policy makers about the importance of patient access via educational events at the Capitol.

If you are interested in learning more about any of the aforementioned proposals or projects and how your organization can help support, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

In service,
Le Ondra