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Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Ph.D.

August 20, 2019

Khatera Aslami-Tamplen, Chair

Lynn Ashbeck, Vice Chair

Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

1325 J Street, Suite 1700

Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 665 (Umberg) Mental Health Services Fund: county jails – OPPOSE

Dear Chair Aslami-Tamplen and Vice Chair Ashbeck:

The California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies (CBHA) is regretfully writing to express our opposition of SB 665 (Umberg). This bill would authorize the use of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds to provide services to individuals incarcerated in county jails or subject to mandatory supervision, except for those convicted of a felony.

CBHA is a statewide association of mental health and substance use disorder non-profit community agencies. We believe that Californians deserve a comprehensive community-based behavioral health system that is adequately funded. We value outcome based, data driven, and culturally responsive approaches to providing services. We work strategically and collaboratively to pursue public policy initiatives that create positive system change for communities across the state. We support the integration of behavioral health, physical health, housing, education, and vocational rehabilitation services for children, youth, adults, and older adults.

CBHA is in strong support of supporting individuals suffering from a mental health or substance use disorder issue successfully transition from jail and prison to community settings. We believe providing quality behavioral health services for this vulnerable population is critical to their health, wellbeing, and recovery. Additionally, this will enable them to achieve a full and healthy transition. For this reason, we applaud the author's goal of ensuring that services are accessible and available to people with a mental health problem while incarcerated in county jails.

Our primary concern is with how the bill proposes to use MHSA funds. We believe this measure undermines the essence of Proposition 63 (now known as MHSA) that was passed by California voters in 2004. In the California Code of Regulations Section 3610, it clearly states: "(g) The County may use MHSA funds for programs/services provided in juvenile halls and/or county jails only for the purpose of facilitating discharge." We simply cannot ignore the regulations that specify the appropriate use of MHSA funds for this population.

Additionally, as written in statute, MHSA involves an inclusive and ongoing stakeholder process, at the local level, to assist in determining how best to allocate funds and improve existing county MHSA programs. Sidestepping the local stakeholder process unfairly prioritizes the project proposed in this bill, and threatens existing programs that are providing key



CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AGENCIES

services for our children, youth, families, adults, and older adults. Lastly, the bill does not specifically indicate how the funds will be allocated and if linkages to community services will be guaranteed.

For these reasons, CBHA regretfully opposes SB 665. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (916) 557-1166 x40 or lclarkharvey@ccbha.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Le Ondra Clark Harvey', is written in a cursive style.

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

Cc: Toby Ewing, Executive Director, MHSOAC



REMHDCO

Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition

August 20, 2019

Khatera Aslami-Tamplen

Chair

Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

1325 J Street, Suite 1700

Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 665 (Umberg) – Oppose

Action Item 5 – MHSOAC Meeting of August 22, 2019

Dear Chair Aslami-Tamplen,

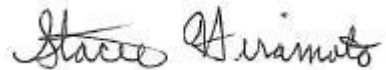
The Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition (REMHDCO) represents organizations and individuals throughout the state from many diverse racial and ethnic communities. Our interest is any matter related to Proposition 63 or the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), particularly those issues that have an impact on reducing mental health disparities.

REMHDCO takes a strong position to **oppose SB 665 (Umberg)** that would allow funding to be used for programs in county jails. One of the primary reasons community stakeholders supported Proposition 63 was because the funds were to be used for programs *in the community, not in institutions*, especially where people were being held involuntarily. The MHSA was passed to transform the system from a “fail first to a help first” system. Furthermore, we believe that funds for community mental health programs to prevent people from going to jail are far more cost effective than treating people after they are in jail.

We are also not in favor of the amendments proposed by the County Behavioral Health Directors Association that suggest this be a pilot project using funds from the Innovations component of the MHSA. Innovations funding should be used for programs to **prevent** incarceration or hospitalization.

The Legislature should not change this basic and fundamental principle of the MHSAs. We believe the majority of community stakeholders do not support this change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stacie Hiramoto".

Stacie Hiramoto, MSW
Director

cc: All Members of the MHSOAC
Toby Ewing, Executive Director, MHSOAC



Contra Costa County



NAMI

National Alliance on Mental Illness

Contra Costa County

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August 20, 2019

Commissioners and Toby Ewing, Director
Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC)
1325 J Street, Suite 1700
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Oppose SB 665 (Umberg)—Mental Health Services Act Funds; County Jails

NAMI Contra Costa and the Community Mental Health Coalition representing over 2,500 families of the severely mentally ill in this county Oppose SB 665. The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA; Proposition 63) passed by the voters in 2004 to specifically help transform **community**, not locked facility, mental health. Welfare and Institutions (WIC) Code Sections 5890-5892 make it clear MHSA funded services are to be: Consumer driven, Family focused, **Based in the community**, Culturally and linguistically competent, and Integrated with other appropriate health and social services.

These regulations also make it clear (Section 5891) MHSA funds cannot supplant or replace other funding sources. Since other state criminal justice funding sources exist to fund this laudable effort, NAMI Contra Costa is not in favor of the County Behavioral Health Directors Assn. (CBHDA) using MHSA Innovations funding for this effort.

NAMI Contra Costa, in recent years, has noticed an increasing number of legislative proposals and ballot measures to use MHSA funds for a variety of additional state directed services and projects. Like NAMI California, we believe other available funding sources, including state General funds should be used to fund public safety should be sought rather than redirecting MHSA funds.

For these reasons, NAMI Contra Costa, like NAMI California, opposes SB 665.

Charles Madison
President
NAMI Contra Costa

Gigi R. Crowder, L.E.
Executive Director
NAMI Contra Costa

Douglas W. Dunn, MBA, L.E.
Chair, Legislative Committee
NAMI Contra Costa

CC: Jessica Cruz, MPH/HS, Chief Executive Officer, NAMI-California
Marcel Harris, State Advocacy Manager, NAMI-California
Suzanne Tavano, Ph.D., Behavioral Health Director, Contra Costa Behavioral Health
Matthew White, MD, Behavioral Health Medical Director, Contra Costa Behavioral Health
Warren Hayes, LMFT, Program Chief and MHSA Program Manager, Contra Costa Behavioral Health