



# REMHDCO

Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition

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August 9, 2019

Commissioner Mara Madrigal-Weiss  
Commissioner Mayra Alvarez  
Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission  
1325 J Street, Suite 1700  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commissioner Madrigal-Weiss and Commissioner Alvarez,

REMHDCO just had a brief discussion over the telephone with the MHSOAC PEI staff about the preliminary Project Framework that was developed for the meeting on Monday, August 12, 2019. REMHDCO made the following recommendations for changes to the framework and we agreed to put these in writing.

1. The Project Framework paper is written in a way that implies that the amended PEI regulations to be developed by the MHSOAC would be *limited* to the priorities listed at the bottom of page 1 of the document. We believe the priorities may be expanded in the new regulations by the MHSOAC. We want to be sure that participants in all the meetings understand this critical difference.
2. Regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> bullet on page 1, “*Culturally competent and linguistically appropriate prevention and intervention services and strategies*” – We believe this may imply that only some programs or services need to be culturally competent and linguistically appropriate. Counties are already obligated to provide culturally competent and linguistically appropriate services.

We believe wording such as, “*Programs designed to serve specific racial, ethnic, and LGBTQ communities in order to reduce mental health disparities*” would be more appropriate and in line with the intent of the legislation.

3. On page 2, under “Project Structure and Activities”, REMHDCO strongly recommends adding “*Focus Groups for particular underserved racial, ethnic, and LGBTQ communities*” to the list of public engagement activities. In order to

reach people in these communities and gather more authentic information, focus groups are usually more effective than the general large community meetings.

REMHDCO is very willing to assist in identifying communities, participants, or even setting up such focus groups for this project.

We look forward to our members attending the various meetings around the state and providing support to you and the MHSOAC staff in whatever way we can. Please do not hesitate to contact Stacie Hiramoto, our Director, at (916) 705-5018 for any assistance we can provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Beatrice Lee".

Beatrice Lee  
President

cc: Toby Ewing, MHSOAC Executive Director  
Kayla Landry, MHSOAC PEI Project Staff  
Ashley Mills, MHSOAC PEI Project Staff  
Kara Chung, MHSOAC PEI Project Staff

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