



**AB 462 – Wage Information Data Access -**

**IN BRIEF -**

This bill would allow the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission to receive employment information held by the California Employment Development Department to enable the Commission to document and monitor employment outcomes for persons with mental health needs. California's Mental Health Services Act identifies employment as a key outcome for mental health care. AB 462 will equip the Commission to develop the tools and standards needed to ensure that California's mental health consumers have access to the services and supports needed to obtain and retain employment, a key aspect of a recovery-oriented mental health system.

**BACKGROUND**

California's Mental Health Services Act, passed by voters in 2004, established the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission to promote transformational change for California's mental health system and to develop the tools and strategies needed to ensure oversight and accountability. Among other goals, the Act identifies reducing unemployment as a key goal for mental health services as part of a broad range of other outcomes, including reducing suicide, incarceration, homeless, school failure among children with mental health needs, and prolonged suffering.

According to a 2014 report by the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 90 percent of adults served by California's public mental health system are unemployed. Yet employment is widely recognized as an important goal for recovery, as it facilitates independence, financial support to cover housing, transportation and related needs and can lead to self-sufficiency. Under existing law, the California Employment Development Department collects data on employment and unemployment, but access to employment-related data is limited to purposes specifically related to reducing unemployment or to meet other, specific public needs as outlined in the law.

**SOLUTION**

AB 462 authorizes the Director of the Employment Development Department to share specified employment-related information with the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability

Commission, to the extent permitted under federal rules and regulations, to allow the Commission to better track employment outcomes for people receiving public mental health services. That information also will enable the Commission to evaluate the effectiveness of services intended to lead to employment and to report those results to the public and policymakers as part of the Commission's broad oversight role.

**SUPPORT**

Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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