



July 20, 2018

John Boyd, Chair
Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC)
1325 J Street, Suite 1700
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SB 82 Triage Grants Reduction in Funding: Governor's Budget

Dear Chair Boyd:

On behalf of the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California (CBHDA), which represents the public mental health and substance use disorder program authorities in counties throughout the state, we are urging the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission to reduce the awarded grant amounts for SB 82 triage grants by an equal percentage for all grants awarded. The Governor cut the budget for triage grants from \$32 million per year to \$20 million per year in the FY18-19 State Budget and tough decisions will need to be made. Counties rely upon this money to fund needed crisis response and intervention services. Furthermore, this is the best option to make sure that each county awarded still receives a portion of the funding.

We also respectfully urge the Commission to suspend the first quarter reporting under the stipulations of the grants. Counties will have to adjust their budgets to incorporate the cut in funding, and it will take time to make the adjustments needed.

We value the partnership with the MHSOAC and look forward to continuing to work together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Thomas Renfree'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Thomas Renfree
Interim Executive Director
CBHDA

cc: Toby Ewing, Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission
Tom Orrock, Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission