

Public comment from California Mental Health Advocates for Children and Youth

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To: BHSOAC Public Comment <publiccomment@bhsoac.ca.gov>

Cc: Steve Varner <svarner@unitedparents.org>; Melissa Hannah <mhannah@unitedparents.org>

Subject: Written public comment to the OAC from the California Mental Health Advocates for Children and Youth

Honorable Board of Commissioners, California Mental Health Advocates for Children and Youth (CMHACY), has been advocating for children and youth since 1980.

CMHACY has been a partner with United Parents since the initial grant was awarded. One example of how CMHACY's partnership with United Parents has improved its advocacy work on behalf of children, youth, and their parents and caregivers, is through the co-sponsoring and writing of our monthly policy update with United Parents (known as the Children and Youth Policy Update – CYPU),.

The CYPU target population is parents and caregivers of children and youth who face social, emotional and behavioral challenges. The article is written in parent/caregiver friendly language and is distributed to thousands of parents and caregivers across the state.

The article is intended to keep parents and caregivers informed, and up to date, with the most current policies, legislative bills, as well as new programs, that are relevant to the children and youth in their care.

It is our belief that that our partnership with United Parents, through the CYPU, has enabled parents and caregivers to be better equipped to advocate for bills that have not yet been passed, and to take advantage of new programs and laws that they may not have known about without the distribution of the CYPU article.

Thank you very much for your support of United Parents, and the coalition that they lead, known as Parents and Caregivers for Wellness (PC4W).