

TO: Commissioners
FROM: Tara Niendam, UC Davis
RE: Early Intervention
DATE: 10-24-2024

Thank you for this opportunity to share my written thoughts with the Commission as part of this meeting. Since 2011, I have had the privilege of providing prevention and early intervention services to youth and young adults with early psychosis in Sacramento County through the MHSA-funded SacEDAPT clinic. I have personally seen how these services can transform lives and the lives of affected families, helping everyone to get back on track. California has invested in developing early intervention for psychosis across the state and it is important to maintain this focus. DHCS and MHSA have supported the development of training and technical assistance to enhance and grow these programs to serve more people and more communities. Estimates suggest that approximately 20,000 youth and young adults experience the onset of psychosis each year. Without easy access to high quality treatment, these individuals may find themselves facing very difficult outcomes, including incarceration and homelessness. Please continue to support of California's commitment to early intervention – it is essential for individuals experiencing early psychosis.