



KELECHI UBOZOH CONSULTING



THE VILLAGE PROJECT, INC



Boa Me Na Me Mmoa Wo ("Help Me and Let Me Help You")



HUMANIDAD Therapy & Education Services HUMANIDADTHERAPY.ORG



January 12, 2023

Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission
PEI Subcommittee Co-Chairs
1812 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Commissioners Madrigal-Weiss and Alvarez,



We received notice that the MHSOAC PEI Subcommittee is scheduled to hold a virtual meeting on January 17, 2023, to review the latest draft of the PEI Subcommittee Report. We appreciate your commitment to this process and the hard work invested in the PEI Subcommittee Report. As expressed in hundreds of public comments over the last several months, of utmost importance to racial, ethnic, LGBTQ+ and other underserved communities, is that the Commission formally adopt our recommendations to the PEI priorities under the authority granted by SB 1004 Wiener (Chapter 843 of 2018).

Again, REMHDCO, the Cross Population Sustainability Steering Committee (CPSSC), NASW-CA, CBHDA, CAMHPRO, and many other partners respectfully requested that the MHSOAC utilize their clear authority to meet the moment and augment the PEI priorities as recommended. Powerful arguments support leveraging this strategic opportunity.


As the PEI Subcommittee will report to the full Commission, we request that Commissioner Alvarez make a motion at the upcoming Subcommittee meeting to adopt our recommendations to augment the list of PEI Priorities under WIC Section 5840.7 for approval by the full Commission. We also request that Commissioner Madrigal-Weiss and Commissioner Alvarez vote in favor of the motion. The recommendations are attached.

These additions were adopted by the Cultural and Linguistic Competency Committee and the Client and Family Leadership Committee of the MHSOAC. Our recommendations have been brought to your attention on numerous occasions and memorialized in the PEI report. Furthermore, counties need guidance and direction that they can indeed prioritize projects for students not in college and work with CDEPs.

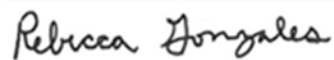
However, only you have the power to operationalize policy change needed to reduce racial, ethnic, and LGBTQ+ disparities by: 1. Adding language that prioritizes **all** transition age youth (not just those in college) and 2. Adding language that prioritizes *community defined evidence practices* (CDEPs) under the item, "Culturally competent and linguistically appropriate prevention and intervention."

Please do not hesitate to contact Stacie Hiramoto at (916) 705-5018 or Shiramoto@remhdco.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Stacie Hiramoto, MSW
Director
Racial & Ethnic Mental
Health Disparities Coalition



Rebecca Gonzales
Director of Government Relations and
Political Affairs
National Association of Social Workers,
California Chapter (NASW-CA)



Tara Pir, PhD
CEO/Director
Institute for Multicultural Counseling
& Education Services, Inc. (IMCES)



Noel O'Neill
Council Chair
California Behavioral Health Planning
Council



Josefina Alvarado Mena
Chief Executive Officer
Safe Passages
Chair of the Cross Population
Sustainability Steering Committee



Andrea Wagner
Interim Executive Director
California Association of Mental
Health Peer-Run Organizations
(CAMHPRO)



Deb Roth
Senior Legislative Advocate
Disability Rights California



Margaret Peterson
Chief Executive Officer
Catholic Charities of the East Bay

Lishaun Francis

Lishaun Francis
Director, Behavioral Health
Children Now

Lisa Pion-Berlin

Dr. Lisa Pion-Berlin
President & CEO
Parents Anonymous Inc.

Sonya Young Adam

Sonya Young Adam
Chief Executive Officer
California Black Women's Health
Network



Jacob Cepollina
Executive Director
Gender Health Center

Rayshell Chambers

Rayshell Chambers
Co-Executive Director
Painted Brain

Gabriel Pimentel

Gabriel Pimentel
Executive Director
Friendship House Association of
American Indians

Kelechi Ubozoh

Kelechi Ubozoh
Consultant
Kelechi Ubozoh Consulting



Shronda Givens
Interim CEO
Tessie Cleveland Community Services
Corporation



Paul Simmons
Executive Director
Depression and Bipolar Support
Alliance (DBSA)



Mandy Diec
Director of California
Southeast Asia Resource Action
Center (SEARAC)

Eba Laye

Eba Laye
President
Whole Systems Learning

Stephanie Manieri

Stephanie Manieri
Director of Programs
Latino Service Providers

Gulshan Yusufzai

Gulshan Yusufzai
Executive Director
MAS-Social Services Foundation

Dannie Cesena

Dannie Cesena, MPH
he/him/they/them
Director
California LGBTQ Health & Human
Services Network

Anne-Natasha Pinckney

Anne-Natasha Pinckney
Executive Director
Center for Sexuality and Gender
Diversity

Erica Jung

Erica Jung

Jesse Damon

Jesse Damon
Co-Directors
Research and Evaluation
Special Services for Groups

Ken Einhaus

Ken Einhaus
Project Co-Director
LGBTQ TA Center

Eva M. Terrazas

Eva M. Terrazas
Chief Public Policy and Advocacy
Officer
Pacific Clinics

Mel Mason

Mel Mason
Executive Director Emeritus
The Village Project, Inc.

Juan Torres

Juan Torres
Executive Director
Humanidad Therapy and Education
Services

Myron Dean Quon

Myron Dean Quon, Esq.
Executive Director
Pacific Asian Counseling Services

Elizabeth Oseguera

Elizabeth Oseguera
Senior Policy Advocate
California Health Plus Advocates

Anastacio "Junior" Flores

Anastacio "Junior" Flores
Program Director
Asian American Recovery Services

cc: Toby Ewing, Executive Director, MHSOAC
Ashley Mills, Research Supervisor, MHSOAC
Members of the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability
Commission