



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF

# Mental Health

1600 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 654-2309

May 26, 2011

Ms. Patricia Ryan, Executive Director  
California Mental Health Directors Association  
2125 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Second Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95818

Re: Distribution of Mental Health Services Act Funds

Dear Ms. Ryan:

Thank you for the partnership and thoughtful guidance you and the CMHDA have provided to the Department of Mental Health (DMH) during the implementation of the Governor's proposals for redirection of MHPA dollars to support community mental health services.

It is my priority to keep this partnership active and healthy to productively address the many transition issues we will confront as the State budget is negotiated and new laws are implemented.

The recent enactment of Assembly Bill 100 significantly changed the responsibilities of the DMH in the administration of the Mental Health Services Act (MHPA). In keeping with the Governor's intent to place decision making authority at the level closest to the people who benefit from the services, AB 100 presents many opportunities to streamline and improve policies and procedures to allow counties to more effectively implement MHPA funded programs.

Supporting the intent of AB 100 to create a reliable flow of funds to counties, DMH has identified all undistributed MHPA funds from the current and prior fiscal years, and will instruct the State Controller's Office to release those funds to counties in June 2011. In addition, each County Mental Health Director will receive a letter from DMH providing the details of their county's release of funds. Details will include each component from which funds were released, the dollar amount distributed from these component allocations and the fiscal year in which the funds were initially made available. Finally, the letter will also include a DMH contact for any questions the county might have.

I look forward to our continued partnership as we address the structural, administrative, and policy changes developed to improve delivery of community mental health services to the people of California.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Radtkey-Gaither  
Acting Chief Deputy Director

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cc: Diane Van Maren, Consultant, Senate Budget Committee  
Kiyomi Burchill, Policy Consultant to Senator Steinberg  
Sheri Gaugher, Executive Director, Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission  
Andrea Margolis, Consultant, Assembly Budget  
Cassandra Royce, Consultant, Assembly Health  
Eric Gelbar, Chief Consultant, Assembly Human Services  
Michelle Cabrera, Senior Consultant, Assembly Human Services  
Kevin Hanley, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus  
Mary Bellamy, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus  
Eric Swanson, Staff Director, Assembly Republican Caucus  
Michelle Baca, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus  
Peter Anderson, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus  
Scott Bain, Principal Consultant, Senate Health  
Roger Dunstan, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations  
Concepcion Tadeo, Consultant, Senate Health  
Jack Hailey, Staff Director, Senate Human Services  
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus  
Seren Taylor, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Caucus  
Joe Parra, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus  
David Panush, Policy Consultant to Senator Steinberg  
Gail Gronet, Senior Staff to Assembly Speaker Perez