



February 1, 2017

RE: Priorities for Improving Mental Health in 2017

To whom it may concern:

Please accept the included whitepaper, which was composed by the California Coalition for Mental Health (CCMH), a unified voice for family and consumer organizations, nonprofit service providers, clinicians, professional associations, hospitals, and advocacy organizations aiming to improve the delivery of mental health care in California.

The purpose of this paper is to support the State Legislature in taking prudent, evidence-based, and cost-effective measures to improve the lives of Californians living with mental health conditions. Our primary priority is to ensure that gains in mental health services are not lost due to the anticipated repeal of federal healthcare reforms. This whitepaper focuses on efforts we can make to continue California's advancements in the provision of mental health care ahead of these changes. You have received this paper because the impact of supportive and affordable housing on health and ensuring adequate supply of appropriately trained mental health professionals to meet demand falls within the jurisdiction of this committee.

Thank you for your leadership in addressing these critical issues. CCMH would be pleased to provide any additional support as we work to further our shared goals of improving mental health care in California. If you have any questions please feel free to call me at (916) 389-2621 or e-mail joseph.robinson@eachmindmatters.org.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J.R.", is positioned below the "Regards," text.

Joseph Robinson, LCSW
Chair, California Coalition for Mental Health

Cc: Senate and Assembly Judiciary Committees; Senate and Assembly Veterans Affairs Committees; Senate and Assembly Public Safety Committees; Senate and Assembly Health Committees; Senate Business, Professions, & Economic Development Committee; Senate Transportation & Housing Committee; Assembly Human Services Committee; Assembly Housing & Community Development Committee; Assembly Jobs, Economic Development, & the Economy Committee



California Coalition for Mental Health Member Organizations

American Association for Marriage & Family Therapy- CA Division
California Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
California Alliance of Child & Family Services
California Association of Health Facilities
California Association for Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors
California Association for Marriage & Family Therapists
California Association of Mental Health Patients Rights Advocates
California Association of Mental Health Peer Run Organizations
California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies
California Association of Rural Health Clinics
California Council of Community Mental Health Agencies
California Elder Mental Health & Aging Coalition
California Hospital Association
California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions
California Mental Health Advocates for Children & Youth
California Mental Health Planning Council
California Mental Health Services Authority
California Primary Care Association
California Psychiatric Association
California Psychological Association
California Society for Clinical Social Work
California Women's Mental Health Policy Council
County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California
Disability Rights California
Mental Health America of California
National Alliance on Mental Illness- CA Division
National Association of Social Workers- CA Chapter
Occupational Therapy Association of California, Inc.
Orange County Coalition for Mental Health
Racial & Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition
San Diego County Coalition for Mental Health

www.californiamentalhealth.org