



May 8, 2024

Tomás J. Aragón, M.D., Dr. P.H.
Director and State Public Health Officer
The California Department of Public Health
PO Box 997377
MS 0500
Sacramento, California 95899-7377

Dear Dr. Aragón,

The California Coalition for Behavioral Health (CCBH) writes today in strong support of the letter by Little Tokyo Service Center and others dated April 19, 2024. That letter requests that the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) meet with representatives of Little Tokyo Service Center and others regarding their concerns over the omission of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (“AA/NHPI”) communities in CDPH administered projects including a suicide prevention project for transition age youth from underserved racial/ethnic communities.

We believe CDPH should meet as requested with the AA/NHPI community representatives within a month of your receipt of their letter. We understand that representatives of the AA/NHPI community have provided CDPH with data to back up their concerns and have enlisted the support of the Asian and Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus to contact you on their behalf.

As CDPH is now in charge of “Population Prevention” under Proposition 1, community members and representatives are anxious to see how this important component will be rolled out. As CDPH works to implement elements of Proposition 1, CCBH wants to ensure the behavioral health needs of the AA/NHPI community are understood and taken into consideration. The apparent exclusion of this community from the above-

mentioned projects appears to be unfair, and the failure to meet with these representatives gives CCBH concerns as to how CDPH will address the current and future needs of the AA/NHPI and other racial/ethnic communities.

We urge CDPH to meet in good faith with the representatives of the AA/NHPI community and if possible, to come to a mutual agreement on addressing their concerns. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theresa Comstock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Theresa" written in a large, looping script, and the last name "Comstock" written in a smaller, more compact script.

Theresa Comstock
CCBH President

cc: Peter Gee, Director of Service Programs, Little Tokyo Service Center
The California Asian and Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus
Thu Quach, Ph.D., Chair, AA&NHPI Health Equity Coalition