



**California Association of Local Behavioral Health  
Boards and Commissions**

April 20, 2021

Lynne Ashbeck, Chair  
Mara Madrigal-Weiss, Vice Chair  
Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission  
& MHSOAC Commissioners

*Via Email*

Dear Chair Ashbeck, Vice Chair Madrigal-Weiss and Commissioners,

CALBHB/C's Governing Board is in strong support of the proposed multi-county collaborative **Psychiatric Advanced Directives (PADs) MHSA Innovation Project**.

PADs are an important tool to minimize mental health crisis and involuntary care. Drafted when a person is well enough to consider preferences for future mental health treatment, PADs allow:

- Individuals to document their preferences for mental health treatment.
- The appointment of a health proxy to interpret those preferences during a crisis.
- Use when a person becomes unable to make decisions during a mental health crisis.

This Innovation Project will help counties improve access to appropriate and effective care, while respecting a person's preferences. We are glad to see goals toward scaling the effective use of PADs throughout California, with efforts to standardize, integrate, communicate, train and provide ready access to PADs, while engaging the expertise of diverse ethnic, racial and cultural communities, "Peer Support Specialists", individuals with lived experience and their family members.

We encourage your support for the multi-county collaborative PADs MHSA Innovation Project.

Sincerely,

Harriette S. Stevens, Ed.D., President

Theresa Comstock, Executive Director

cc: Toby Ewing, Ph.D., Executive Director, MHSOAC