California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions

March 3, 2020

Dr. Kelly Pfeifer, DHCS, Behavioral Health Deputy Director
Dr. Toby Ewing, MHSOAC Commission Director
Lynn Ashbeck, MHSOAC Chair
MHSOAC Members

Dear Dr. Pfeifer, Dr. Ewing, Chair Ashbeck, and MHSOAC Members,

We write to formally ask that DHCS and MHSOAC establish a standardized set of MHSA performance outcome data points to facilitate effective reporting by CA's 59 local mental/behavioral health (LMBH) agencies, thereby allowing effective review and comment by CA's 59 LMBH boards and commissions. It is in the best interest of CA's local communities to know the impact of MHSA-funded offerings.

We call attention to CA law (WIC 5848(c)) that specifies performance outcome data responsibilities of DHCS and MHSOAC in collaboration with County Behavioral Health Directors Association of CA (CBHDA) and with the review and approval of the CA Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC) (WIC 5772(c)(3)). Further, WIC 5604.2(a)(7) specifies the duty of each of CA's 59 LMBH boards and commissions to review and comment on performance outcome data.

To increase review in the short-term, CALBHB/C identified and now provides existing performance outcome data from each of the 59 local MH/BH agencies (MHSA, Medi-Cal EQRO and SAMHSA PATH) at www.calbhbc.org/performance. There is good performance outcome information in some counties, although it is quite evident that DHCS and MHSOAC (with input from CBHDA and CBHPC) should standardize data points and reporting requirements, along with facilitating analysis and communication.

We urge DHCS and MHSOAC to prioritize this important work.

Sincerely,

Harriette S. Stevens, Ed.D., President Theresa Comstock, Executive Director

cc: See next page.

cc: County Behavioral Health Director's Association of CA: Dr. Amie Miller, President
County Behavioral Health Directors Association of CA: Michelle Cabrera, Executive Director

CA Behavioral Health Planning Council: Lorraine Flores, Chairperson,
CA Behavioral Health Planning Council: Jane Adcock, Executive Officer
CA Behavioral Health Planning Council: Performance Outcome Committee Members

CA Health and Human Services Agency: Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary
CA Health and Human Services Agency: John Connolly, Deputy Secretary Behavioral Health

CA Health and Human Services Behavioral Health Task Force: Members

DHCS Behavioral Health Stakeholder Advisory Committee: Members

Legislative Analyst's Office: Mark Newton, Deputy Legislative Analyst
Legislative Analyst's Office: Corey Hashida, BH / Medi-Cal / State Hospitals

Senate Committee on Health: Senator Richard Pan, Chair
Assembly Committee on Health: Assembly Member Jim Wood, Chair

Steinberg Institute: Mayor Darrell Steinberg, JD
Steinberg Institute: Dr. Tom Insel, President
Steinberg Institute: Maggie Merritt, Executive Director