

REMHDCO

Racial & Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition

FOUNDING AGENCIES

California Family Resource Association
California Primary Care Association
Community Health for Asian Americans
Family Alliance for Counseling Tools and Resolution
Hmong Collaborative/Southeast Asian Resource Action Center
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
Mental Health Association in California
Native American Health Center
Disability Rights California
Tessie Cleveland Community Services Corp.

April 6, 2012

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
Chair - Senate Budget Subcommittee #3
State Capitol, Room 5019
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Thursday, April 12, 2102 Subommittee Meeting
[Transfer Non Medi-Cal Community Mental Health Programs to Other Departments.](#)

Dear Senator DeSaulnier:

The Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities (REMHDCO) is a coalition of representatives of underserved communities throughout California. We have been together for over four years and advocate that our communities receive adequate and appropriate mental health services, particularly in regards to Proposition 63 or the Mental Health Services Act.

1. We are strong support of the administration's proposal to place the \$60 million set aside for a statewide project to reduce mental health disparities at the Department of Public Health. These funds were agreed to and promised by both government and community stakeholders for this express purpose and adopted by the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission years ago.

Please see the last page of the document attached.

2. We also support additional trailer bill language that specifies that the staff of the Office of Multicultural Services (presently under the Department of Mental Health but proposed to be transferred to the Department of Public Health's Office of Health Equity) remain in charge of administering these funds.

MEMBERS

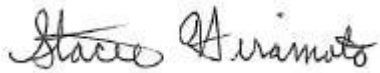
Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council
Asian Americans for Community Involvement
Asian Pacific Community Counseling
California Black Women's Health Project
California Youth Empowerment Network
Capitol Unity Council
Chamberlain's Mental Health Services
Community Solutions
ECCAC Latino Community
Ethiopian Community Outreach Family
Hmong Women's Heritage Association
La Familia Community Counseling
MAAS Social Services
Magna Systems
NAMI en Espaniol
Pacific Clinics
Sacramento Lao Family
Slavic Assistance Center
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
Southeast Asian Assistance Center
Special Services for Groups
Survivors of Torture
Union of Pan Asian Communities
Win Visitors
Youth in Focus

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The Office of Multicultural Services (OMS) is the entity that has not only the proven experience and knowledge, but most important, *the trust of underserved communities*, to administer this project effectively. There is no other entity that has as much the trust and respect from underserved communities as OMS.

Please support our struggle for funding and finding ways to reduce mental health disparities in California. We have waited a long time for this and the proper administration of the \$60 million will go a long way towards this goal. Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacie Hiramoto". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stacie Hiramoto, MSW
Director

Attachment

cc: Members of the Senate Budget Subcommittee #3
Diane Van Maren, Office of President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg
Michelle Baass, Senate Budget Committee
Andrea Margolis, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1
Agnes Lee, Assembly Democratic Caucus Office