



MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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California Mental Health Commission Adopts Letter of Appreciation to Governor and Legislature for Preserving Mental Health Funds

Today, the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) adopted a letter to Governor Schwarzenegger and the California Legislature thanking them for preserving the integrity of the Mental Health Services Fund despite a very difficult budget year.

The Mental Health Services Fund was established by Proposition 63 of 2004 to provide for increased mental health services in California. MHSOAC Chair Linford Gayle said, "The Governor and the Legislature have fought hard to ensure these funds are spent on mental health, as the voters of California have intended."

With the adoption of the proposed letter, the MHSOAC expressed appreciation to Governor Schwarzenegger and the Legislature for standing with Californians who support mental health services. A recent Field Poll released this month shows 73% - or 7 in 10 - of California voters surveyed oppose making cuts in mental health services in order to reduce the state budget deficit.

MHSOAC Vice Chair Andrew Poat said, "We appreciate that the Governor and the Legislature have honored the voters' will to fund essential mental health services. With this letter we emphasize the mental health benefits to thousands of Californians from the Mental Health Services Act."

The MHSOAC is meeting today, Thursday, June 26th, and Friday, June 27th, at the Wyndham Hotel in San Jose. The hotel is located at 135 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95112. The meeting on Thursday is from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. The meeting on Friday begins at 8 am.

Today, the morning began with a briefing on county mental health status from Santa Clara County Mental Health Director Nancy Pena, Ph.d. This MHSOAC meeting is part of the Commission's meetings around the state to conduct business where the public can have access to the Commission and where the Commission can bring information regarding mental health oversight and accountability to the public.

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