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California Family
Resource Association
Strong Families. Strong Communities.

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October 12, 2009

Mr. Andrew Poat
Chairman
Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission
1300 17th Street, Suite 1000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: MHSAOC October Meeting - Public Comment at MHSOAC Meetings

Dear Chairman Poat,

The Client and Family Leadership Committee (CFLC) of the MHSOAC presented a paper and recommendations, at your September meeting, regarding public comment at your Commission meetings. CFRA supports these recommendations and would like to commend the CFLC for their thorough efforts in discussing these issues.

We respectfully request a change on two issues. First, we believe that public comment is essential and should be allotted at least three minutes, rather than two minutes. It is critical that the public have reasonable time to comment on current issues. Further, community stakeholders prioritize and attend OAC meetings and it is quite often at the cost of other competing demands.

Secondly, we support having two (2) periods for general public comment at the Commission meetings, one in the morning and one at the end of the meeting. Both periods provide for more inclusive participation by community stakeholders. Public comment is indeed an essential component in all MHSOAC meetings.

California Family Resource Association is a statewide membership association of organizations and individuals that are working to build strong families. CFRA's mission is to advocate for innovative public policies and funding that help families and communities thrive and succeed. CFRA is very supportive of the Mental Health Services Act.

Sincerely,

Leticia Alejandrez

Leticia Alejandrez
Executive Director

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