California Mental Health Planning Council

CHAIRPERSON
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February 28, 2013

Dear Colleague:

The California Mental Health Planning Council (Council) is pleased to present to you **"AB 109 Implementation – The First Year"** - a report on the first year implementation of the AB 109 Public Safety Realignment. The Council is under federal and state mandate to provide advice and feedback to legislators and governmental entities on mental health policies and services within the state, particularly policies which impact the quality and sufficiency of mental health services.

When AB 109 was chaptered, the Council wondered how the additional populations being released would impact local resources and services, and how well-served those released inmates would be upon re-entry. The Sacramento Bee reports that in 2011, approximately 25% of California's inmate population – (37,289) - lived with persistent mental illness. It is widely known that, with appropriate services and supports, individuals can recover from mental illness and live meaningfully in their communities. The only chance of success of the Public Safety Realignment is if sufficient services are available and accessible to this population.

- **Advocacy**
- **Evaluation**
- **Inclusion**

In 2012, the Council invited four counties to respond to specific questions on the transition and initial outcomes of their AB 109 implementation. The counties represented the large urban experience of Los Angeles, the mid-size urban Bay Area counties of San Mateo and Santa Clara, and the more rural central California county of Stanislaus.

This report is a distillation of their responses regarding their individual experiences with the implementation process. The report also includes the Council's recommendations made to the Administration upon the conclusion of the panel forums.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Andi Murphy at andi.murphy@cmhpc.ca.gov. This report is also available at our website: http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/MH/Documents/AB%20109%20Imp%20Feb%202013_FINAL.pdf. We hope that this report will provide some information and insight into the implementation and maintenance issues of the Public Safety Realignment.

Sincerely,

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