



California Behavioral Health Planning Council

ADVOCACY • EVALUATION • INCLUSION

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MS 2706

July 16, 2024

Tomiquia Moss
Secretary
Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency
500 Capitol Mall, Suite 1850
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act (BHIBA) Recommendations

Dear Secretary Moss:

The California Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC) has the statutory authority to review, evaluate, and advocate for persons with serious mental illness (SMI) and youth with severe emotional disturbances (SED) in Welfare and Institutions Code §5771 and §5772.

Considering the substantial changes in the Behavioral Health Transformation (Proposition 1), CBHPC's role as outlined in the Welfare and Institutions Code, and the composition of our membership, we respectfully request your consideration of our involvement in the development of regulations and policies pertaining to the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act (BHIBA). CBHPC is invested in supporting swift distribution of BHIBA funds and the successful implementation of the Behavioral Health Transformation.

The recommendations outlined in this letter are in alignment with our [Policy Platform](#) and vision of a behavioral health system that makes it possible for individuals with lived experience of SMI or substance use disorder (SUD) to lead full and purposeful lives.

On April 26, 2024, CBHPC leadership met with representatives from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to share our concerns and recommendations outlined in the [follow-up letter](#) dated May 7, 2024. Similar versions of the letter were also sent to leadership at the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and Department of Veteran Affairs (CalVet).

We believe it is vitally important to ensure that leadership at the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH) is aware of the California Behavioral Health Planning Council's recommendations. Therefore, we are taking this opportunity to share what we believe should be considered when drafting BHIBA as these recommendations will expand the



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number of persons served and maximize funds spent resulting in the successful implementation of the Behavioral Health Transformation.

They are:

1. Adopt [Behavioral Health Bridge Housing's \(BHBH\) definition](#) of homelessness.
2. Adopt [No Place Like Home's \(NPLH\) definition](#) of at-risk of chronic homelessness as the definition of chronic homelessness under Proposition 1.
3. Broaden the definition of veteran.
4. Broaden the types of housing projects that can be funded.

We believe these recommendations will strengthen Proposition 1 to ensure all Californians are able to access and receive high quality services to lead full and purposeful lives.

We appreciate your attention to these important issues and value your role in this pivotal process. CBHPC is open to further discussions with you or your designated staff as needed to discuss our recommendations.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact our Executive Officer, Jenny Bayardo, at (916) 750-3778 or

Jenny.Bayardo@cbhpc.dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Deborah Starkey
Chairperson

CC: Stephanie Welch, Deputy Secretary of Behavioral Health, CalHHS

Enclosures: Letter to HCD Branch Chief Timothy Lawless dated May 7, 2024
Letter to HCD Director Gustavo Velasquez dated June 27, 2024