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December 15, 2021

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Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Ph.D.

The Honorable Dr. Jim Wood  
Chair, Assembly Health Committee  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0002

The Honorable Mark Stone  
Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0029

**RE: CBHA's Comments on 12/15 Lanterman-Petris-Short's Hearing**

Dear Chair Wood and Chair Stone:

The California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies (CBHA) believes that Californians deserve a comprehensive, community-based behavioral health system that is adequately funded. CBHA supports the integration of behavioral health, physical health, housing, education and vocational rehabilitation services for children, youth, adults, and older adults.

I write to thank you for convening the December 15, 2021 Joint Assembly Health and Judiciary Informational Hearing on the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (LPS), and submit these written comments to the Committees' record which were provided by our Senior Advocate for Policy and Legislative Affairs, Robb Layne.

Transcript of testimony provided during the hearing:

"CBHA is a statewide association of community-based mental health and SUD organizations that provide critical behavioral health services, including housing services, to more than 775,000 Californians. We believe that Californians deserve a comprehensive, community-based behavioral health system that is adequately funded. CBHA has a deep connection to the MHSA, as Rusty Selix, CBHA's founder, co-authored Proposition 63 with then-Senator Steinberg. In this vein, we remain committed to advocating for the appropriate use of the funds to provide services to individuals under the LPS Act.

We also want to acknowledge the powerful testimony from the consumer panel. We appreciate the expertise both Keris and Kelechi bring with their lived experience. These stories, in addition to the testimony from Teresa Paquini, are important and are a true testament to the need for whole person care as well as a whole continuum of care. Additionally, we want to remind the committee that community providers serve everyone in the community, including those with a criminal background. We don't discriminate, we are in the business of supporting everyone that needs our help.

CBHA also appreciates Chair Wood's remarks related to the differences in services among counties. These structural issues oftentimes lead to delays in care and high quality and timely care. We agree that "whole person care doesn't work unless there is a whole continuum of care." We also would like to ask that Substance Use Disorders (SUD) policies are included in this conversation going forward. To address true recovery, we must treat the whole person and not just mental health disorders.



In addition, we recognize the impact of health disparities on the communities we serve. In particular, racial and ethnically diverse communities continue to suffer from behavioral health conditions at disproportionate rates when compared to their white counterparts yet receive a lower standard of care. In addition, these communities also suffer from decades of historical & racial trauma which exacerbates stigma that in turn impacts their willingness to participate in treatment.

CBHA is committed to continuing to work with the Administration and allied organizations to support patient-centered programs and services. Programs with quality treatment program, quality beds and alternative solutions will prove more successful in the future. One such program is the suicide and crisis prevention line program, 988. In partnership with Assemblymember Bauer Kahan, Steinberg Institute and Kennedy Forum, we co-authored a budget proposal to garner funding for the program, which will transform our state's mental health crisis system by connecting people to life-saving interventions and provide an alternative to 911.

We appreciate the attention to this critical issue and applaud the focus of this hearing. Our state needs to make immediate interventions and today represents a step in the right direction. While we appreciate the testimony of all panelists, the CBO perspective was not fully included. CBHA welcomes the opportunity for future participation and working with you in the future."

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at: [Lclarkharvey@cccbha.org](mailto:Lclarkharvey@cccbha.org) or (916) 557-1166 \*400.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Le Ondra Clark Harvey'.

Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robb Layne'.

Robb Layne  
Senior Advocate, Policy and Legislative Affairs