

May 19, 2020

Lynne Ashbeck, Chair  
Mara Madrigal-Weiss, Vice Chair  
Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission  
1325 J Street, Suite 1700  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Ashbeck and Vice Chair Madrigal-Weiss:

We would like to thank you and the staff for meeting with our group about the Commission's proposed changes to the Rules of Procedure. We know that you are incredibly busy managing the impact of COVID-19 in your communities and we are grateful for your time and your consideration.

As a coalition of statewide partners, we are strong in our position that stakeholder engagement, the meaningful and intentional involvement of consumers, family members, parents, caregivers, youth, LGBTQ, veterans, and people from diverse and un/underserved communities, is a vital part of all tenets of the MHSA. As stewards of the work of the MHSA, we would like to explore the opportunities we have to support the Commission to continue its long-held pursuit of the perspectives of stakeholders as an integral part of its operations.

As we understand, revising the Rules of Procedure is just one of the outcomes of the Commission's work to develop a strategic plan, a comprehensive process that was conducted publicly, and with stakeholder involvement over the course of a year. We believe that these proposed changes are substantial and will have a considerable impact on how the Commission conducts and completes its work. They should be discussed and developed publicly and in a transparent space, ideally through the formation of a committee of Commissioners, consistent with the public development of the strategic plan.

We remain committed to working with you and the full Commission on developing and refining the Rules of Procedure in a manner that aligns with the intent of the MHSA and preserves the vital role of stakeholder voice. Additionally, we would like to invite you to consider ways where we, as statewide partners, can provide information more regularly to the Commission on our respective

populations and our work, some of which is funded by the Commission. We look forward to exploring the many ways in which we can build a more collaborative relationship and work forward, together in the best interest of the communities we all serve.

Sincerely,



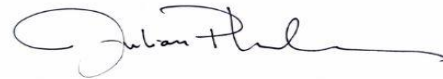
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Chief Executive Officer  
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Disparities Coalition (REMHDCO)



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Mental Health America in California



Julian Plumadore, Interim Executive  
Director, Peers Envisioning and  
Engaging in Recovery Services  
(PEERS)



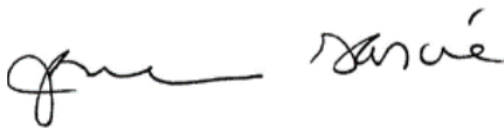
Lorraine J Zeller  
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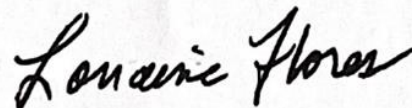
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California Black Women's Health  
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Karen Vicari  
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Jane Garcia, CEO  
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