

July 31, 2019

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors  
Rex Bohn, Chair  
825 5<sup>th</sup> St.  
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Supervisors:

The Humboldt County Behavioral Health Board (BHB) met on July 18, 2019 to discuss a variety of legislative priorities. We would like to take this opportunity to urge the Board to join with the BHB in support of the following currently pending bills:

**AB 577 Health care coverage: maternal mental health** - This bill would allow maternal mental health care coverage to continue for up to 12-months postpartum. For women who lose Medi-Cal coverage 60 days after the birth of their child because they are over income limits, this bill would allow them to continue mental health services for up to 12 months.

**AB 1098 Substance use disorders: youth programs** - creates the guidelines for dispersing grant funds from the Proposition 64 Adult Use of Marijuana Act Youth Education, Prevention, Early Intervention and Treatment account. The grants are directed primarily to schools and must be used to support either an evidence-based or evidence-informed program.

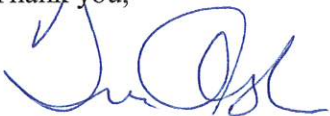
**AB 1352 Community mental health services: mental health boards** – would affirm the independence of the BHB and clarify our responsibilities. The bill would create the authority for the BHB to review and evaluate the entirety of the local mental health system, including schools, emergency departments, jails and psychiatric facilities. A written response by county departments would be required if recommendations by the BHB are not included in the final Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) plan or updates.

**SB 389 Mental Health Services Act** – would allow MHSA funding to be used for services for people on parole. The bill also clarifies those who are already eligible for MHSA funded services, including people who are participating in probation, a presentencing or post sentencing diversion program, or mandatory supervision.

**SB 445 Alcohol and drug treatment: youth** – would create an expert advisory panel to assist the state with establishing youth substance use disorder treatment quality standards. Once the standards are created (on or before Jan. 1, 2023), a county would not be able to contract with a provider that didn't meet the minimum standards. Youth is defined as birth to 26 years of age.

These bills are intended to address a variety of behavioral health needs within the state and would directly impact the lives of Humboldt residents. If the Board decides to support our recommendations, draft support letters are attached. We would be happy to provide any additional information as requested by the Board.

Thank you,



Tim Ash,  
Chair