



July 1, 2019

Jennifer Kent, Director
Department of Health Care Services
P.O. Box 997413, MS 0000
Sacramento, CA 95899-7413

Dear Director Kent:

The California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports is a coalition of 39 statewide and regional organizations that advocate for the dignity, health, and independence of Californians regardless of age who experience disabilities, functional limitations or chronic conditions and who use long-term services and supports. Member organizations represent consumers, providers, advocates, labor, and insurers. On behalf of our members, we respectfully request your reconsideration of the composition of the recently established DHCS Behavioral Health Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) to include a representative of the aging and disability communities.

Based on forecasts by the California Department of Finance and the Legislative Analyst Office, it is estimated that 8 million Californians are either elderly, living with a disability or both. Within this cohort group, a significant number rely on the Medi-Cal program for a wide array of services and supports, including behavioral health needs.

Upon review of the Behavioral Health SAC roster, the California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports noted a lack of expertise in the needs of older beneficiaries and those with disabilities. We are concerned that while not intentionally, the absence of these experts, will result in the mental health needs

of these communities being overlooked. To assure this growing demographic is represented, we urge you to add one or more of the following individuals to the stakeholder advisory committee before it commences its work:

1. *Dr. Janet C. Frank*, Faculty Associate, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research
2. *Eli Gelardin*, Executive Director, Marin Center for Independent Living
3. *Carol Sewell*, Legislative Director, California Commission on Aging
4. *Dr. Janet Yang*, Chief Psychologist, Heritage Clinic
5. *William Reed*, Northern Region Vice President, California In-Home Supportive Services Consumer Alliance

Each of these individuals is deeply engaged in the aging and disability and mental health arena. Furthermore, as CCLTSS participants they can draw on the wide range of expertise represented throughout our organization.

Thank you for your reconsideration. I am happy to assist you with applications, resumes and/or contact information for any of the above candidates recommended by the California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports. You may contact me at achrist@justiceinaging.org.

Sincerely,



Amber C. Christ, JD, *Vice Chair for Policy*
California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports
Directing Attorney, Justice in Aging

Cc: Mark Ghaly, MD, MPH
Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency

Marko Mijic
Deputy Secretary, Office of Program and Fiscal Affairs, California Health and Human Services Agency