



GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM TAKES HISTORIC LEAPS FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Behavioral Health Leaders Applaud the Governor's May Revision

Sacramento, CA – The Covid-19 pandemic has had an adverse impact on Behavioral Health across California, both short and long-term, particularly for communities of color and those facing barriers to accessing care. Unless we take bold action to address this ongoing crisis, these behavioral health challenges will only continue to grow. Today, Governor Gavin Newsom highlighted his continued commitment to combating the behavioral health pandemic head-on in his May revision to the state budget.

As noted in the Governor's May Revision, many significant investments are proposed to be made that will transform the system and impact consumers across the state. Investments made into homelessness, mental health, CalAIM, and other vital programs demonstrate an investment in rebuilding the Behavioral Health care system that will define how we provide preventative, and crisis care for our clients. We look forward to working with the administration on implementing these exciting proposals on behalf of the 200 nonprofit organizations we represent.

The California Alliance and the California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies have come together to release the following statements:

"The California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies (CBHA) once again commends the Governor for recognizing the growing behavioral health crisis. For far too long, BIPOC communities have had less access to needed care, and the pandemic has exacerbated these inequities," said CBHA CEO Dr. Le Ondra Clark Harvey. "The Governor's continued investment in the infrastructure of mental health and substance use services is heartening, and CBHA looks forward to continuing to work with the Administration to reform and shape the behavioral health system."

"The California Alliance of Child and Family Services commends Governor Gavin Newsom's acknowledgment of the burden that has fallen on youth during the pandemic, particularly youth living in low-income communities and youth of color who have been impacted disproportionately," said Christine Stoner-Mertz, CEO of the California Alliance. "Governor Newsom has outlined his vision of the path California must take in the road to recovery, and that path includes direct investment in our children. We are pleased that such a strong level of commitment in child and youth behavioral health has been put forward. We look forward to working with the Governor and the Administration on the details."