



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
MENTAL HEALTH
COMMISSION



The Contra Costa County Mental Health Commission has a dual mission: 1) To influence the County's Mental Health System to ensure the delivery of quality services which are effective, efficient, culturally relevant and responsive to the needs and desires of the clients it serves with dignity and respect; and 2) to be the advocate with the Board of Supervisors, the Mental Health Division, and the community on behalf of all Contra Costa County residents who are in need of mental health services.

April 20, 2009

Federal D. Glover
Supervisor, District V
315 E. Leland Rd.
Pittsburg, CA 94565

Dear Supv. Glover,

At the regular monthly meeting of the Contra Costa County Mental Health Commission on March 26, 2009, by a unanimous vote, the Commission voted to take a position against Proposition 1E.

The Commission would like to request that you, along with the rest of the Board of Supervisors, consider taking a similar position.

Background

California Proposition 63 appeared on the California general election ballot on November 2, 2004. Officially known as the Mental Health Services Act, it passed with 6,191,691 (53.8%) votes in favor and 5,337,216 (46.2%) against.

Proposition 63 was an initiated state statute that levied an additional 1% tax on incomes of \$1,000,000 or greater to fundamental health service programs beginning January 1, 2005. Approximately 25,000 to 30,000 taxpayers were to be directly affected by the tax, generating an estimated \$750 million in revenue during fiscal year 2005-06. At the time of the election, California income tax rates ranged from 1% to 9.3%, depending on a taxpayer's income level.

Official summary of Proposition 63 (MHSA)

- *Prohibits state from decreasing funding levels for mental health services below current levels.*
- Provides funds to counties to expand services and develop innovative programs and integrated service plans for mentally ill children, adults and seniors.
- Requires state to develop mental health service programs including prevention, early intervention, education and training programs.



- Creates commission to approve certain county mental health programs and expenditures.
- Imposes additional 1% tax on taxpayers' taxable personal income above \$1 million to provide dedicated funding for expansion of mental health services and programs.

Conclusion

Proposition 1E goes against one of the Act's mandates. This mandate prohibits use of MHSA funds for existing services. Its funds are to be used strictly for incremental improvements to Mental Health services offered. Since the Act's passage, MHSA funds have supported services to an estimated 200,000 previously un-served people in the state.

Proposition 1E would divert Mental Health Services Act funds to the state General Fund. This move will result in loss of mental health services and also open the door for future raids on MHSA funds.

Please respond and let the Commission know if you stand with us on this crucial issue. Once we're heard back from each of the Supervisors, we will prepare a position letter to send to the full Board.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important matter.

Respectfully,

Peter A. Mantas (LS)

Peter A. Mantas, Chair
Contra Costa County Mental Health Commission

cc: William Walker, MD, Health Services Director
Donna Wigand, LCSW, Mental Health Director
Lara DeLaney, Legislative Coordinator
David Twa, County Administrator
Dorothy Sansoe, Senior Deputy County Administrator

