



Asian Pacific Counseling
& Treatment Centers

February 21, 2012

Baker Places, Inc.

Members of Senate and Assembly Health Subcommittees

Bay Area Community Services

Members of Senate and Assembly Budget Subcommittees

Berkeley Places

**RE: Joint Senate and Assembly Health Policy and Budget Subcommittees
February 21, 2012**

Bonita House

Buckelew Programs

Dear Senators and Assemblymembers:

Caminar

Community Solutions

The California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies (CASRA) is a statewide association of private, not-for-profit, public benefit corporations that provide services to clients of the California public mental health system. We have sponsored or been involved in the development of legislative initiatives in California since the late 1970's beginning with the Community Residential Treatment Systems Act (AB 3052: 1978). The CRTS was the first attempt in the nation to articulate the goals, values and principles of a community-based system of services that was based upon the promise of growth and recovery. The legislation outlined and funded the development of small, social model, residential treatment programs to serve as alternatives to their institutional counterparts e.g. hospitals, nursing facilities, etc.

Conard House

Consumer's Self-Help

Crossroads Diversified Services

Didi Hirsch Community
Mental Health Center

El Hogar

Human Resource Consultants

Interim, Inc.

The restructuring of the behavioral health system in California provides opportunities to improve treatment outcomes and increase efficiency.

Mental Health America
of Los Angeles

Mental Health Consumer
Concerns, Inc.

One clear way to accomplish this is to increase the use of crisis and transitional residential treatment programs which are critical to addressing the high cost of hospital and other institutional 24-hour care. As developed in California, crisis residential programs cost about \$350 per day and serve individuals who would otherwise be hospitalized. Transitional programs provide a behavioral healthcare analog to a physical rehabilitation 24-hour service.

Momentum for Mental Health

Portals, Division of Pacific Clinics

Progress Foundation

Project Return Peer Support
Network

In addition, the recent mental health and substance use needs assessment submitted to the Department of Health Care Services on January 30th found that mental health rehabilitation had an average expenditure per user rate of \$1,060 while psychiatric hospitalization had an average expenditure per user rate of \$20,937.

Rubicon Programs

San Fernando Valley Community
Mental Health Center

Santa Cruz Community
Counseling Center

Transitional Living & Community
Support

Clearly the increased utilization of psychiatric rehabilitation services, from alternatives to institutional and 24-hour care to intensive community services including supportive housing, education and employment, peer support and self help will reduce emergency room use and hospitalization, homelessness and incarceration while enhancing community tenure, increasing employment and ability of those with a mental illness to self-manage their disability.

Transitions- Mental Health America

Turning Point Community Programs

Please contact me if I can provide additional information. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our testimony.

Turning Point Foundation

Yolo Community Care Continuum

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JR' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

Joseph Robinson, LCSW CADAC II
Associate Director for Public Policy
California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies (CASRA)
P. O. Box 388 Martinez, CA 94553
(925) 229-2300
www.casra.org