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September 25, 2025

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Kendra Zoller
Deputy Director of Legislative and External Affairs
Commission for Behavioral Health
1812 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Ms. Zoller,

We are contacting you on behalf of the California Commission on Aging (CCoA). By statute, CCoA advises the Governor and Legislature, as well as state, federal, and local agencies, on programs and services that affect older adults. We recently had an opportunity to review the California Behavioral Health Full Service Partnerships 2024 Legislative Report Draft. It is well-written and provides important data on the full-service partnership programs.

Older adults, named as a service population group within the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA), are defined as individuals 60 years of age and older. However, age data groupings in the report are often ages 26-64 and 65 and older. This is concerning because it does not provide an accurate or easy way to see the data for the older adult category, which is very important to know. We note this problem in tables where age is reported (for example, Appendix C2, "Enrollment by Age Group, Region and County"; Appendix C14, "CSI Services Received by Age Group and Diagnosis").

In addition, other tables do not report an older adult category at all (for example, Appendix C6, "Length of Enrollment by Age Group"; Appendix C17, "FSP Clients Who Have Ever Indicated They Were Homeless"). Appendix C18, "Annual Enrollment of Full Service Partnerships by Age Group," does not appear to present any age data.

We request that the Commission for Behavioral Health reporting include age as a variable, using the age groups defined by the BHSA, with separate reporting for the older adult category. We are available to discuss this issue further.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Lindeman
Chair
California Commission on Aging