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California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) Creating Program Advisory Committee (PAC)  
*Embraces Continued Ongoing Stakeholder Involvement, Collaboration, Transparency*

SACRAMENTO, CA (August 11, 2011) – The California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA), a joint powers authority (JPA) of California counties focused on the efficient delivery of California mental health projects and programs, announced today at its board meeting that it has taken action to create the CalMHSA Program Advisory Committee (PAC) and establish a quarterly discussion roundtable for ongoing informal conversation regarding CalMHSA mental health projects. To ensure statewide representation, PAC shall have twelve regional representatives with equal representation from CalMHSA board of directors and stakeholders. The conceptual framework for the new Committee was developed based on stakeholder feedback received from the JPA’s July 14, 2011 board meeting and discussion, as well as from an informal stakeholder meeting held on July 27, 2011.

Formation of PAC reflects CalMHSA’s continued strong commitment to in-depth stakeholder involvement, collaboration, transparency, and knowledge-sharing in the future membership and program growth of the JPA across the three statewide projects currently administered by CalMHSA—Suicide Prevention, Stigma and Discrimination Reduction, and Student Mental Health Services. The three programs were developed under the Mental Health Services Act passed by California voters in November 2004. In 2007, the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) approved five prevention and early intervention (PEI) statewide projects and corresponding funding amounts. In 2008, MHSOAC determined that three Statewide PEI projects would be implemented most efficiently and effectively if administered through a single statewide entity and subsequently developed Strategic Plans for each project: the Suicide Prevention Initiative, Stigma and Discrimination Reduction Initiative and the Student Mental Health Initiative. In April 2010, the Department of Mental Health (DMH) contracted with CalMHSA to administer the funding and implementation of mental health services, projects and educational programs at the state, regional and local levels. California is investing nearly \$160 million directly to improve mental health in California, through these three projects, with nearly \$150 million managed within CalMHSA.

Serving as a hub of best practice communication, PAC will disseminate information in a timely and inclusive manner to all CalMHSA stakeholders, partners, and board of director members. Examples of the advisory authority for the new Committee are: 1) development and administration of a system for compiling, analyzing and reporting stakeholder feedback on the statewide PEI and other programs as might be applicable to CalMHSA; 2) oversight related to

new programs or structures to be created, including program monitoring, compliance, and reporting of results; and 3) input on member services and expansion of CalMHSA members and services.

Criteria for selecting the six stakeholder members includes: stakeholder occupies a position of influence and is empowered to speak for his/her organization; and stakeholder contributes to diverse representation of consumers and families, cultural groups, age spans, and geographic regions. PAC's stakeholder application process will be open for 30 days from mid-August to mid-September after which CalMHSA's selection committee will review and selects stakeholder members. The first meeting of the PAC is anticipated October 2011.

PAC is subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act, and will be organized around the Act's requirement for open to public participation. Advisory only in focus and mission, PAC will adopt decisions by consensus. Meetings are proposed to be held quarterly the afternoon or evening before a CalMHSA board meeting.

"While respecting and promoting the values of the California Mental Health Services Act and overseeing funds, it is important for CalMHSA to focus on 'collaborativeness' and the clear, compelling, and concise communication of ideas and items impacting our success," says CalMHSA Board President Wayne Clark, PhD, Monterey County. "PAC will be a hub of this kind of activity at CalMHSA and will serve in an advisory role across CalMHSA's member counties, board, and stakeholders."

George Hills Company (GHC) is CalMHSA's administration firm. GHC is a best practices TPA and JPA management firm with 57 years of experience serving California.

### **About CalMHSA**

The California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) is joint powers authority (JPA) of California counties and is focused on the efficient delivery of California Mental Health Projects. Member counties jointly develop, fund, and implement mental health services, projects, and educational programs at the state, regional, and local levels. The following 38 counties are members of CalMHSA: Butte, Colusa, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Kern, Lake, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Mendocino, Modoc, Monterey, Napa, Orange, Lassen, Placer, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Trinity, Yuba, Ventura and Yolo. For more information go to <http://calmhsa.org>.

### **About CDMH**

The California Department of Mental Health (DMH), entrusted with leadership of the California mental health system, ensures through partnerships the availability and accessibility of effective, efficient, culturally competent services. This is accomplished by advocacy, education, innovation, outreach, understanding, oversight, monitoring, quality improvement, and the provision of direct services. DMH employs more than 12,000 employees in eight locations throughout the state, including its headquarters in Sacramento, five hospital facilities, two acute care facilities within the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. As a state public agency, DMH has worked hard to transform and improve the state's mental health systems of care by working with the mental health constituency to develop a system of partnerships and coordinated interagency efforts. For more information go to <http://www.dmh.ca.gov>.

**About MHSOAC**

With the passage of Proposition 63 in November 2004, the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission was established to oversee specific parts of the Mental Health Services Act including Prevention and Early Intervention Programs, Innovative Programs, Human Resources, Education and Training Programs and sections of the Adult and Older Adult System of Care Act and Children's Mental Health Services Act. The Commission has primary responsibility for Prevention and Early Intervention and Innovative Programs including issuing Guidelines and approving county plans for those two program areas. For more information on MHSOAC go to <http://www.dmh.ca.gov/MHSOAC>.

**About GHC**

Founded in 1954, George Hills Company, Inc. (GHC) provides California's public sector and private insurance carriers best practice claims administration (liability and property) and litigation management services. The firm also provides best practice, turnkey formation and management services to California JPAs. GHC has seven office locations in the State of California, including its corporate headquarters in Rancho Cordova/Sacramento. For more information on GHC go to <http://www.georgehills.com>.

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