



# REMHDCO

Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition

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June 7, 2019

Khatera Aslami-Tamplen  
Chair  
Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission  
1325 J Street, Suite 1700  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Agenda Item 2 – Commission Teleconference of June 10, 2019

Dear Chair Aslami-Tamplen,

The Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition (REMHDCO) would like to raise a concern with you and the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) regarding Action Item 2 for the Commission Teleconference scheduled for June 10, 2019.

The background material for this item was not available to the public until this morning, June 7<sup>th</sup>, which we believe does not allow sufficient time for community stakeholders to review and find out information regarding this item. REMHDCO contacted the MHSOAC staff to inquire whether the contract with the University of California San Francisco was a sole-source contract or whether a competitive bid process had taken place as this contract is budgeted at over one million dollars. The staff informed us that “The contract with the UCSF is an interagency agreement and a competitive process is not required for interagency agreements.”

Had this contract been discussed in detail at a prior MHSOAC meeting, or better yet, at a MHSOAC Evaluation Committee meeting, then we would not be so concerned with the process. Community stakeholders would have been able to ask questions instead of just making comments during the public comment

period at the formal Commission conference call. We also believe that more information should have been provided to the public prior to the Commission meeting. We realize the staff is very busy but for a \$1 million contract, more than three sentences are needed for the public to make a determination whether the contract should be approved.

We will be present on the Commission Teleconference this Monday and look forward to learning more about all the contracts proposed under Agenda Item 2.

Thank you for consideration of our concerns. We want to support the evaluation efforts of the MHSOAC and hope to be invited to be involved in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beatrice Lee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Beatrice Lee  
President

cc: All MHSOAC Commissioners  
Toby Ewing, Executive Director, MHSOAC  
Dawnte Early, Chief of Research and Evaluation, MHSOAC