

**From:** Mary Ann Bernard [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 20, 2021 11:38 AM  
**To:** MHSA  
**Subject:** COMMENTS FOR THE SACRAMENTO COUNTY 5/20/21 MHSA STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

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**COMMENTS FOR THE SACRAMENTO COUNTY 5/20/21 MHSA STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

I am unable to attend tonight's meeting though I will be present for future meetings if there is prompt action on my pending application to join this Committee.

I am a Sac County resident, a retired lawyer with a schizophrenic adult son, and further expertise identified in my application.

Now that Sacramento County has opted into Laura's Law, the three year plan must be revised to provide funding for it. The statutory basis for using MHSA money for Laura's Law is at Welf. & Institutions Code 5813.5(f) which reads, in relevant part, "When included in county plans ... funds may be used for the provision of mental health services under Sections 5347 and 5348 in counties that elect to participate in the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Demonstration Project Act of 2002 (Article 9 (commencing with Section 5345) of Chapter 2 of Part 1)." [otherwise known as Laura's Law.] If MHSA treatment funds are insufficient to pay for a robust Laura's Law program, MHSA PEI funds should be used. The statutory and regulatory bases for using PEI funds is in the last clause of Welf. & Inst. Code 5840(c), which states that PEI "shall also include components similar to programs that have been successful in reducing the duration of untreated severe mental illnesses and assisting people in quickly regaining productive lives." and at 9 Code of California Regulations Section 3720(d) which states that "Prevention Program services may include relapse prevention for individuals in recovery from a serious mental illness."

Historically, a great deal of PEI money has been wasted on nonsense programs that will never prevent mental illness from becoming severe mental illness, as required by MHSA Section 5840(a). See the "bait and switch" analysis done by MentalIllnessPolicy.org, at [https://secure-web.cisco.com/1ptof7-aTX-I3Yw7PGpLdB2rmL1xsF1-QLU4A24yxmYvaHw4qtT-1APR6EsNyTGkVI7I\\_IYc08OYxsbT2E7txAhVW93HRO1rZKF53eBI3cqbDwKeoZ4-2OjqXV1ZLn7rZ9N8Th3hXkOo3Onp8gEUZ4pWpCuENtzBphDqG\\_h\\_FnbMjlyVAPWp9RBt0Wz4xIFbgguqzyJcSM2ldxe0BoGxFVpEPb47mBZgDhCoyFACG1YfGCRUUnTEM4iDB4zOR350LNQ9cSEGBogesRYL\\_OzmpZGBIcepFF-CluXlqxwRiJRTzecjnBL7xOFXvKSFlz8i/https%3A%2F%2Fmentalillnesspolicy.org%2Fstates%2Fcalifornia%2Fmhsa%2Fcalifornias-mental-health-service-act-a-ten-year-10-billion-bait-and-switch-pdf.html](https://secure-web.cisco.com/1ptof7-aTX-I3Yw7PGpLdB2rmL1xsF1-QLU4A24yxmYvaHw4qtT-1APR6EsNyTGkVI7I_IYc08OYxsbT2E7txAhVW93HRO1rZKF53eBI3cqbDwKeoZ4-2OjqXV1ZLn7rZ9N8Th3hXkOo3Onp8gEUZ4pWpCuENtzBphDqG_h_FnbMjlyVAPWp9RBt0Wz4xIFbgguqzyJcSM2ldxe0BoGxFVpEPb47mBZgDhCoyFACG1YfGCRUUnTEM4iDB4zOR350LNQ9cSEGBogesRYL_OzmpZGBIcepFF-CluXlqxwRiJRTzecjnBL7xOFXvKSFlz8i/https%3A%2F%2Fmentalillnesspolicy.org%2Fstates%2Fcalifornia%2Fmhsa%2Fcalifornias-mental-health-service-act-a-ten-year-10-billion-bait-and-switch-pdf.html). At the same time, the mandatory MHSA provision requiring relapse prevention programs has often been ignored.

I hope to change that. Respectfully submitted, Mary Ann Bernard