



# Sacramento County Mental Health Board

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June 6, 2022

Sacramento County Board of Supervisors  
700 H Street, Suite 2450  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**To: Sacramento County Board of Supervisors**  
**Re: Psychiatric Advance Directives**

Honorable Supervisors:

On 6/1/22, the Mental Health Board unanimously passed the following motion:

"That Sacramento County participate in the Psychiatric Advance Directives multi-county collaborative MHSAs innovations project." This letter is to inform you of this recommendation and to ask for you to approve of this participation.

To provide you some background, it was in 2006 that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services stated that a Psychiatric Advanced Directive (PAD) should be a standard of psychiatric care. Since the 1990's, several states enacted laws and policies recognizing PADs. The problem was that PADs were often written with a focus on physical health with little attention to psychiatric health plans or instructions to assist in the event of a **mental health crisis**. PADs are used for the possibility that someone may lose the capacity to give or withhold informed consent to treatment during acute episodes of psychiatric illness. In other words, a way to protect a person's ability to self-direct care in advance of a crisis.

Initially, in 2019, three California counties explored ways to initiate PADs to improve the response to individuals in crisis. At that time, only Fresno County was able to obtain approval for the project before the pandemic hit. Then in June 2021, 5 counties with MHSAs funding (Fresno, Mariposa, Monterey, Orange and Shasta) came together to move PADs to the forefront to form the Multi-County PADs project which sought to make PADs accessible to our mental health consumers along with first responders, emergency departments and inpatient psychiatric units. These counties are seeking approval from the MHSOAC to use Innovation Funds to develop the infrastructure for sustainable PADs usage in California. It also appears that Contra Costa County is in the process of joining the Collaborative, and we recommend that Sacramento County join as well.

Our PADs Ad Hoc Committee learned that the project is open to additional counties upon approval by their respective Board of Supervisors and this is the approval we are seeking from you at this time.

Thank you for your consideration of this worthy project.

Sincerely,

Loran Sheley, Chairperson  
Sacramento County Mental Health Board

cc: Ryan Quist, PhD, Behavioral Health Director