



March 30, 2020

*Via electronic mail*

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1303 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Request for Executive Order to Temporarily Waive Licensure Requirements for Non-Licensed Essential Behavioral Healthcare Workforce**

Dear Governor Newsom:

The California Alliance of Child and Family Services (the Alliance) and the California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies (CBHA) write to express our gratitude for your continuous efforts to stabilize the safety net of community based organizations who provide behavioral health services during this public health emergency. Our organizations represent non-profit community-based organizations serving children, youth, families, adults, and older adults across the behavioral health, child welfare, juvenile justice, and education systems.

**We recognize that you have been apprised of some of the challenges that individuals supervised by licensed essential healthcare workers are encountering. As it pertains to the behavioral healthcare workforce, we want to alert you that the concerns about licensure and examinations persist for licensure applicants for whom the Board of Behavioral Sciences and Board of Psychology have oversight.** Understandably, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the licensure processes have been disrupted. Many are scheduled to sit for their licensure examinations in the coming months. If they do not complete this and other requirements, they may not be able to continue providing behavioral healthcare services or graduate timely. Due to statutory requirements, the Boards have indicated they are unable to waive or delay the required examinations. If the licensing requirements are not temporarily waived via an Executive Order, access and continuity of care for the most vulnerable will be disrupted at a time when services are needed the most. **We see this as an urgent workforce issue that requires immediate attention, and we request your consideration of waiving requirements that are preventing care from being delivered to vulnerable populations during this state of emergency.**

We stand ready to partner with the Administration to address this issue and welcome your follow-up. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our offices at: (916) 557-1166 extension 400 or (916) 449-2274.

Sincerely,



Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Ph.D.  
Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs  
California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies



Christine Stoner-Mertz  
Chief Executive Officer  
California Alliance of Child and Family Services

CC:

Mark Ghaly, Secretary, Health and Human Services Agency  
John Connolly, Deputy Secretary, Health and Human Services Agency  
Bradley Gilbert, Director, Department of Health Care Services  
Kelly Pfeifer, Deputy Director of Behavioral Health, Department of Health Care Services  
Lourdes M. Castro Ramirez, Secretary, Business Consumer Services and Housing Agency  
Melinda Grant, Undersecretary, Business Consumer Services and Housing Agency  
Kimberly Kirchmeyer, Director, Department of Consumer Affairs  
Kim Madsen, Executive Officer, Board of Behavioral Sciences  
Antonette Sorrick, Executive Officer, Board of Psychology  
Richard Figueroa Jr., Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom  
Tam Ma, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom