



The Forensic Mental Health Association of California

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June 9th 2005

Stephen Mayberg, PhD

Director

California Department of Mental Health

1600 9th Street, Rm. 151

Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Dr. Mayberg,

There is a great deal of concern about the perceived prohibition of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds for involuntary treatment programs and services. The Forensic Mental Health Association of California supports the use of MHSA money for involuntary programs and services. We believe that it would be unwise to exclude these programs that provide services to people who may be too ill to recognize or accept them. Providing involuntary services is a legal, accepted and important tool for caring for the mentally ill of our state.

We strongly encourage the withdrawal of the language, "*services and programs funded under the Mental Health Services Act must be voluntary in nature*" (Page 2) from the revised Community Services and Support draft document released on May 18, 2005. Whatever language is ultimately utilized, its intention must be unambiguous in allowing for funding for involuntary programs and services.

Thank you for your leadership in this arena and we look forward to the effective implementation of this important act.

Sincerely,

Joel Fay PsyD

President