

DATE: November 20, 2008

MEMO TO: MHSOAC Commissioners

FROM: NAMI California

SUBJECT: NAMI California Survey to Affiliate Presidents and NAMI MHSA Statewide Advisory Pool on MHSA Services and the Two-Tiered System

The attached comments are from NAMI members - family members and clients – residing throughout California as of November 13, 2008. These comments are unedited and answer the following questions:

1. What are you or your family member in need of that you are not getting from your public mental health system?
2. Have your public mental health services improved, declined or remained the same since the passage of Prop 63 in 2004?
3. Has the “two-tiered” public mental health system impacted you or your family member, or affected the resources available to you or your family member?

NAMI CA believes these comments build a clear picture of California public mental health services as experienced by the people who are currently using them or trying to use them.

Prop 63 monies are funding a parallel mental health system that excludes current clients. Contrary to legislative expectations, funds are not being devoted to enhancing and expanding the Systems of Care model, as described in the California Welfare and Institutions Codes, for all who need this level of service.

This results in discrimination and was not the intent of PROP 63. The situation has reached the point of needing a serious course-correction because of inappropriate interpretations about implementing the MHSA.

We respectfully ask each Commissioner to read these comments in full and to aggressively exercise your oversight authority to address and redress the issue of California's two-tiered public mental health system.

Thank you for your attention and your action.

Dede Ranahan
MHSA Policy Program Manager