



EL DORADO COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Treatment Works, People Recover

El tratamiento es efectivo, las personas se recuperan

John Bachman, PhD
Director

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TO: EL DORADO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FROM: JOHN BACHMAN
DATE: March 20, 2008
RE: SENATE BILL No. 1349

Dear Members of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors:

I am writing to express my support for, and to urge your support of, Senate Bill No. 1349, an act introduced by Senator Cox to amend Section 5600.8 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to mental health funding in California. Existing law creates the State Department of Mental Health to oversee provision of mental health services throughout the state. The Department contracts with cities and counties to provide these services. This bill would require that claims for reimbursement by cities and counties for delivery of mental health services be paid within 90 days of submission. If the claim is not paid within the 90-day period, and the funds were available to pay the claim, interest will accrue. This interest will be paid from the State Department's budget.

Passage of this bill now is necessary to rectify the increasing delay that the El Dorado County Mental Health Department is experiencing between the time it submits MediCal claims for reimbursement and the date payment is received. As you know, this delay has caused a serious, negative cash flow problem for us that threatens the integrity of our commitment to provide mental health care in the County. I know I speak for other county mental health directors in expressing appreciation for your political support in seeking passage of this legislation.

John Bachman, PhD
El Dorado County Mental Health Director