Legislation Update: The governor signed and vetoed several Behavioral Health bills this month. Some veto’s that were a surprise related to: The peer certification bill, Substance Use EPSDT changes for youth, licensure/certification standards for recovery residences, and more. A CBHDA staff who works on legislation in the capitol for our organization stated, that while some of these bills were vetoed, hope is not lost. Governor Newsom would like to use other means (budget process, working within DHCS’s already established authority, etc.) to see improvements in these areas. We will continue to push for legislation that improves the quality and access to mental health services.

AB1352 (Waldron) bill was signed by the Governor and will go into effect on January 1, 2020. This was a clarification of existing law related to the role of the MHADAB. Some notable clarifications relate to the areas of focus that the MHADAB reviews (e.g. County Behavioral Health Systems) and requires the County Behavioral Health department to provide a written report regarding why any “substantive” MHSA recommendations by the MHADAB were not included in the MHSA plan. Substantive recommendations were clarified as items where agreement by the majority of the board existed and were formally voted on by the full board. For a full review of the newly signed legislation, click here [http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB1352](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB1352)

MHSA: We have 2 new members of MHSA leadership to announce. Our very own Claire Buckley was selected for one vacancy and Michele Irwin who works for PIRS and is the current MHSA workforce education and training (WET) chair was selected for the second vacancy. We are also working on updating the MHSA charter and hope to roll out the new version for feedback at the November CCW meeting. Finally, at the suggestion of one of our board members, we will be doing one final MHSA planning survey which will summarize the feedback received to date and allow one final opportunity to describe any services that the community would like to see enhanced. Finally, we are still in the hiring process for the new Staff Services Manager MHSA coordinator and hope to announce the candidate by the end of this month.

Domestic Violence Awareness: The BOS proclaimed October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month at their last board meeting. 1 in every 3 teenagers, 1 in every 4 women, and 1 in every 6 men will experience domestic violence in their lifetime and approximately 15.5 million children are exposed to domestic violence every year. In addition, 8% of all homicides were domestic violence related in 2017 and the percentage for Placer County is much higher. Our DA informed me that homicide is rare in Placer County, but when there is one it is nearly always at the hand of someone who was once loved (a family member). Together, with “Stand Up Placer”, we pressed the need for additional prevention oriented and culturally responsive services for those experiencing domestic violence. For those in need call 1-800-575-5352 or the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233.