



July 21, 2020

The Honorable Melissa Hurtado
Senate Human Services Committee, Chair
1020 N Street, Room 521
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Scott Wiener
Senate Housing Committee, Chair
California State Capitol, 2209
Sacramento, CA 95814

CHAIRPERSON
Lorraine Flores

EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Jane Adcock

RE: Assembly Bill (AB) 1766: Licensed adult residential facilities and residential care facilities for the elderly: data collection: severe mental illness- SUPPORT

Dear Senator Hurtado and Senator Wiener,

The California Behavioral Health Planning Council (Council) strongly supports AB 1766, which requires the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to collect data related to the population of individuals with severe mental illness living in licensed Adult Residential Facilities (ARFs) and Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFEs).

Pursuant to state law, the Council serves as an advisory body to the Legislature and Administration on the policies and priorities that this state should be pursuing in developing its behavioral health system. Our membership includes persons with lived experience as consumers and family members, professionals, providers, and representatives from state departments whose populations touch the behavioral health system. Their perspectives are essential to our view on the challenges and successes of behavioral health services and best practices in California.

The Council fully supports efforts that contribute to the housing continuum to meet the needs of Californians' with serious mental illness (SMI). Adult Residential Facilities may be utilized as a permanent or transitional option to support persons with SMI in their recovery. However, there is a lack of data on the existing facilities, which is a barrier in ensuring that individuals with serious mental illness receive the community-based settings necessary for their critical needs.

AB 1766 directs the Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing (CCL) division to collect data from licensed operators and report how many residents have serious mental illness (SMI). This bill also requires reporting on the length of stay, the reason for discharge, the locations to which people are discharged, and the referral source for individuals with mental illness. Furthermore, AB 1766 requires reporting of permanent closures of licensed adult residential facilities and residential care facilities for the elderly.

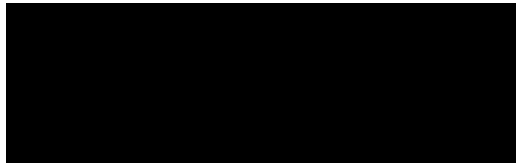
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This bill takes a vital step in addressing a key gap in the State's understanding of who licensed ARFs are currently serving and how many beds we are losing. Additionally, this data reporting will assist the state in confirming these types of facilities are appropriate to meet the unique needs of individuals with SMI.

For these reasons, the Council proudly supports AB 1766 and encourages you to join us with support. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Adcock, Executive Officer, at (916) 750-1862 or Jane.Adcock@cbhpc.dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Lorraine Flores
Chairperson