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### **Behavioral Health Leaders Applaud the Newsom Administration's 2022-23 Budget Proposal**

**Sacramento, CA** – On January 10th, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom announced his proposed 2022-23 State Budget, showcasing a desire to invest in California Behavioral Health programming. The California Alliance of Child and Family Services and the California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies have joined together to issue the following statement:

The Newsom administration acknowledges the significant challenges California faces more than two years into the pandemic. Data shows that our state is continuing to struggle with individual and collective traumas due to COVID-19, which will have a long-lasting impact on our health. Governor Newsom responded by releasing a budget proposal that prioritizes the behavioral health of all Californians.

Specifically, we applaud:

- The \$4.2 billion investment to combat homelessness, the most significant investment in CA history.
- \$3.05 billion to bolster the behavioral health workforce through recruitment, training, and certification.
- \$1.4 billion investment to make mobile crisis teams a Medi-Cal benefit. This will allow California to take advantage of an 85 percent match for mobile crisis teams from the federal government.
- \$263 million to respond to a growing opioid epidemic.
- \$1.2 billion continued investment in the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative.

“CBHA applauds the Newsom administration for their tireless commitment to behavioral health in California,” said Le Ondra Clark Harvey, Ph.D., CEO of CBHA. “This country has woken up to the fact that we are on the verge of a behavioral health crisis like we have never seen before. Once again, due to inequities in our systems of care, black and brown communities are set to face the disproportional impact. These dollars will prove critical in addressing statewide issues, including youth behavioral health interventions, substance use disorder treatment, and homelessness. CBHA and our partners look forward to working with the Newsom administration and the California Legislature on the details of the proposal and continue to advocate on behalf of behavioral health providers in California.”

"The California Alliance of Child and Family Services (CA Alliance) commends Governor Newsom's 2022-23 State Budget," said Christine Stoner-Mertz, CEO of the CA Alliance. "As we focus on the year ahead and the continued weight of the ongoing pandemic on children, youth, and families in California, it is imperative that we act now to address the behavioral health crisis that was amplified by COVID-19. We echo the sentiments from our partner and colleagues at CBHA and recognize that communities of color and LGBTQ+ youth are at greater risk of mental health challenges. We must do more as a State to address the inequities in our system. The CA Alliance looks forward to working closely with the Governor's



Administration and the Legislature on the details of all these investments to benefit all of California's children, youth, and families."

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[California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies \(CBHA\)](#) is a statewide association of non-profit agencies dedicated to providing mental health and substance use disorder programs and services to those in need across our state. We are dedicated to the proposition that the people of California deserve a rational and comprehensive community-based behavioral health system that is adequately funded to serve those in need.

[The California Alliance of Child and Family Services](#) is the unifying force in the charge to promote the health, well-being and safety of children, youth and families in California as a collective voice impacting policy and best practices to strengthen the systems that serve them.