

1 [Endorsing the California Mental Health Services Act Initiative for the November 2004
2 California Ballot]

3 **Resolution endorsing the California Mental Health Services Act Initiative for the**
4 **November 2004 statewide ballot.**

5
6 WHEREAS, An estimated 20% of all Americans will experience a diagnosable serious
7 mental illness sometime in their lifetime; and

8 WHEREAS, According to State of California statistics from 2000, 5.4% or 1.3 million
9 Californians have a serious mental illness; and

10 WHEREAS, California spends more than \$1 billion to incarcerate and treat 15% of the
11 inmate population – or roughly 24,000 California inmates with mental illness, not including
12 local corrections costs such as San Francisco Jail Psychiatric Services;

13 WHEREAS, California's prisons and jails have become de-facto mental institutions –
14 the latest data available indicates that California spends an estimated \$1.2 to 1.8 billion on
15 criminal justice law enforcement dealing with people with mental illness; and

16 WHEREAS, Comprehensive mental health services, such as those available through
17 the Integrated Services Program (AB 34), demonstrate that for roughly \$35 to \$50 per day,
18 these same individuals can access needed services that for most ultimately lead to a return to
19 employment and an ability to get off of public assistance (Source: California Department of
20 Correction 2002 and the Department of Mental Health 2002);

21 WHEREAS, An estimated 20 to 40% of the homeless population suffer from mental
22 illness; more than 50,000 individuals with disabling mental illness live on and off the streets of
23 California; and

24 WHEREAS, Individuals that have disabling mental illness and are homeless are often
25 incarcerated for nuisance and petty crimes but when offered comprehensive community

1 based treatment and safe housing – the incarceration and homeless rate drops to less than
2 2% (Source: AB 34 2002 Report, State Department of Mental Health); and

3 WHEREAS, An estimated 8,500 to 15,000 people in San Francisco are homeless or on
4 the edge of homelessness and approximately 30% of the homeless population has a disabling
5 mental illness; and

6 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) estimates that
7 there are 1,350 individuals with mental health diagnoses, substance abuse diagnoses and/or
8 other chronic medical condition who have been homeless in San Francisco for more than a
9 year; and

10 WHEREAS, In its report to the Board of Supervisors detailing its homeless and housing
11 programs and services, DPH indicates that wrap around services such as those provided by
12 AB 2034/AB 34 have yielded the greatest success in serving this population; and

13 WHEREAS, The President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, released in
14 July of 2003, sited the AB 34 program as a "model program" worthy of emulation by others
15 states and Governor Davis' Interagency Taskforce on Homelessness in 2002 recognized AB
16 34 as one of the few effective programs that addresses the vulnerable population of homeless
17 individuals with mental illness; and

18 WHEREAS, A coalition of mental health advocates and providers statewide drafted and
19 is preparing to circulate the California Mental Health Services Act (the "Act") for the November
20 2004 ballot; and

21 WHEREAS, The Act, if approved by voters, will provide for the following:

- 22 ➤ **Expanded mental health care programs for children and adults**, including
23 services to persons currently disabled by mental illness, persons showing signs of
24 mental illness in need of prevention services, and to families and caregivers of
25 those affected; and

- 1 ➤ **An "integrated services" model to provide a range of services**, an approach
2 proven through programs created under AB 34, including outreach, medical care,
3 short and long-term housing, prescription drugs, vocational training, and self-help
4 and social rehabilitation; and
- 5 ➤ **Services to persons and families without insurance, or for whom insurance**
6 **coverage of mental health care has been exhausted**, including a sliding scale
7 family payment obligation capped at \$2,000 per year for families earning more than
8 the statutorily defined median income; and
- 9 ➤ **Children's services targeted to those not covered by existing programs**,
10 particularly those with untreated mental disorders placing them at risk of severe
11 mental illness, removal from home, suicide or violent behavior; and
- 12 ➤ **Assurance that parents will not be required to relinquish custody of a child in**
13 order to make the child eligible for medically necessary mental health care services;
14 and
- 15 ➤ **Funding for expanded programs through a surcharge on income above \$1**
16 **million per year**, by establishing a 1% surcharge applied to each dollar earned
17 over \$1 million, yielding approximately \$600 million annually; and
- 18 ➤ **An oversight and accountability commission to supervise new mental health**
19 **care programs**; and
- 20 ➤ **Hundreds of millions of dollars in savings**, based on experience with AB 34
21 programs that demonstrate that by treating mental illness earlier and more
22 effectively, savings are generated in reduced hospital costs, jail costs, and medical
23 and welfare costs; and
- 24
- 25

1 WHEREAS, The California Mental Health Services Act, if approved by voters in
2 November 2004, will greatly enhance funding for local mental health treatment, including DPH
3 recommended strategies to improve homeless housing and services; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
5 hereby endorses the California Mental health Services Act and encourages registered voters
6 of the City and County to sign the petition in order to qualify the measure for the ballot.

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City and County of San Francisco

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San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails
Resolution

File Number: 031579

Date Passed:

Resolution endorsing the California Mental Health Services Act Initiative for the November 2004 statewide ballot.

September 23, 2003 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Gonzalez, Hall, Ma, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Newsom, Peskin, Sandoval

File No. 031579

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on September 23, 2003 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

OCT 03 2003

Date Approved


Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board


Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.