California Community Dignity and Mental Wellness Collaborative

CHARTER

WHEREAS The MHSA Statewide Projects for Stigma and Discrimination Reduction (the Projects), as administered by CalMHSA, represent the historic opportunity of significant resources on a statewide level to learn about and challenge stigma and discrimination on multiple dimensions, advance the discourse on mental health in the age of healthcare reform, and shift public policy, legislation and bias against mental health, mental health consumers and mental illness on a sustained basis,

WHEREAS the below, representing organizations that are culturally and ethnically diverse in their leadership and which share the mission to maximize the opportunity for all people of California to realize the vision of society free from stigma, bias, discrimination and prejudice associated with mental health, mental illness, its symptoms and treatment, and its effects as experienced by people with mental health challenges,

WHEREAS the best chance for the Projects to achieve their objectives and to make a difference in California is through coordinated efforts that joins consumer-run organizations, consumers and their families, consumer advocates, experts and researchers across the state,

WHEREAS, based on leading research as described in the RFP much of the work of these Projects will and should be led by consumers, consumer-advocacy and consumer-run organizations and therefore significant opportunities exist through these Projects to expand and amplify the voice and role of consumers, consumer advocates and consumer-run organizations, including local consumer-run organizations, and to promote the leadership of these as a mechanism for systems change on multiple levels,

WHEREAS a coordinated approach to project selection, proposal development, contract management and coordinated implementation of consumer-driven, community-based efforts that are grounded in self-determination, expertise, research and continuous evaluation, provides the best hope for success in proposal development and implementation and sustained effects for stigma reduction over time,

WHEREAS the large influx of resources through these Projects where granted may pose opportunities and challenges related to growth and capacity for these organizations through and/or after the Project period,

IN ORDER to coordinate leveraging of organizational resources and strengths, ensure effective collaboration and foster an ongoing mutually supportive community,

WE the undersigned hereby CHARTER this California Community Dignity and Wellness Collaborative and affirm ourselves as Founding Members:

Sharon Kuehn, Executive Director  
California Network of Mental Health Clients

Khtera Aslami, Executive Director  
Peers Engaging and Envisioning Recovery Services

Keris Jän Myrick, President and CEO  
Project Return Peer Support Network

Catherine Blakemore, Executive Director  
Disability Rights California

Eduardo Vega, Executive Director  
Mental Health Association of San Francisco

Dated this eighteenth of March of 2011.