**CREATE GERIATRIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STATE LEVEL POSITION –**

**AP 11, RN1716700, Senior Assembly Member Krohn**

Research was conducted to determine how counties in California have implemented the Mental Health Services Act (Prop 63). There appears to be two State organizations tasked with Mental/Behavioral Health issues. California Department of Health Care Services and California Board of Behavioral Sciences. Behavioral Sciences is part of the California Department of Consumer Affairs.

Regarding MHSA funds as defined in the law:…”Much of the funding will be provided to county mental health programs to fund programs consistent with their local plans.  Any uncommitted funds during FY 2005-06 will be used to establish county prudent reserve accounts as required by the Act. “ This goes on to say that MHSA provided annual update guidance, but this was in February 2010. No results or information available since then. A graphic depicted by county reporting to the State, providing status as of 2010, indicated that many counties did not report at all. No update found since then.

This proposal will create a state level Behavioral Health Position. It indicates that this position would be within the Mental Health Services Division of the State Department of Health Care Services. The recommended duties of this role would be but not be limited to:

* Collect and report to the legislature expenditures by county of how they are utilizing their allocated amount to ensure that older adults and persons with disabilities receive the assessment, diagnosis and treatment they need.
* To promote, encourage and collect processes that are deemed to be innovative or groundbreaking when it comes to services provided. Communicate findings to other areas in the state to replicate if applicable. (note: Some jurisdictions are very creative and innovative, while others are not as resourceful. Lessons learned could actually vastly improve the services provided across the state)
* Ensure that appropriate training is provided across the State, with periodic licensing application renewals enforced.
* Be an active partner in assessing homelessness adults to ensure they are receiving the best possible mental health evaluation and necessary treatment. Identify and share across the State innovative programs dealing with this important issue.