

Wesley Chesbro
Commissioner
Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission

Dear Fellow OAC Commissioners:

I am writing to indicate my strong support for the election of our acting Chairman Linford Gayle to be the Chair of the Oversight and Accountability Commission. I would make the following arguments on his behalf:

- 1) Linford has the demonstrated confidence of the Governor. He was recently reappointed to the Commission by Governor Schwarzenegger.
- 2) Linford is a consumer of mental health services and enjoys widespread respect and support in the consumer/family communities. Our credibility and relationship with these communities is crucial to our success as a Commission. Linford's election to lead the Commission would be a moment of historic importance for Proposition 63, for the Commission, but most importantly for consumers of mental health services and their families.
- 3) Linford has functioned effectively as our Vice-Chair, and more recently as our acting Chair, and has demonstrated the capacity for running meetings fairly and respectfully. He has provided this leadership through times of great transition and change, including Prop 63 startup, appointments of new Commissioners, the departure of our first Chair and the transition in Executive Directors. I believe he has earned the respect of the various constituencies who are affected by the Board's work and who appear before us.

In deciding to seek the Chair, Linford indicated to me that he would like to have someone as the Vice-Chair who has close proximity to the Commission and Department of Mental Health Offices, as well as familiarity and relationships in the capitol and throughout state government. He asked me if I would be willing to serve as Vice-Chair. My reply was that if he was elected Chair and a majority of the members of the Commission were supportive, I would be willing to serve as Vice-Chair of the Commission.

As you know, as members of the OAC, we have a daunting set of tasks before us. Linford Gayle has earned my deep personal respect and I believe he would be the best choice to lead the Commission forward in facing those challenges.

Sincerely,

Wesley Chesbro, Commissioner