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Asm. Autumn Burke & 2-1-1 California form Partnership to Provide Treatment and Services to California Residents

AB 844 would facilitate resources and treatment for California residents that are battling drug addiction and abuse.

SACRAMENTO - Assemblywoman Autumn R. Burke (D-Inglewood) today introduced legislation to provide easier and higher quality access for drug treatment services in California. AB 844 creates quality and accountability standards for the system navigation services grants as referenced in Proposition 64, to ensure that people seeking assistance for drug addiction and abuse are effectively connected to treatment options.

“Substance abuse has deeply impacted many families and communities in California,” said Assemblywoman Burke. “AB 844 will ensure treatment is readily accessible for California residents seeking treatment, regardless of the time of day, language, or location. AB 844 will effectively use our limited resources to increase the probability of long-term recovery for residents seeking to overcome substance abuse.”

With the passage by voters of Proposition 64 (Prop. 64), a new funding source is available to expand drug addiction and rehabilitation related services. Included within this funding authorization, by the passage of Proposition 64, are annual grants to community based non-profits that provide system navigation services, that match individuals with the program(s) needed for their specific needs. Without this service, the hodge-podge of services at the local and state level can confuse and deter people from receiving treatment.

“When people reach out for help with substance abuse, they need an immediate, accurate connection to the correct program for them, or the opportunity to initiate treatment may be lost,” said Maribel Marin, President of 211 California. “These minimum standards are common sense measures to ensure high quality, consistent support no matter when or where individuals reach out for help.”

211 California is the statewide network of 211 organizations that provide information and referral services to 98% of California’s population. Last year, California’s 211 organizations handled 150,000 requests for substance abuse/mental health services.

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