

STATEMENT BY ROSE KING, MAY 26, 2016 LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

If California is going to rely upon private special interests and paid lobbyists for accountability of \$Billions in tax dollars, this is simply a landmark level of indifference and corruption. My family and friends suffer the consequences.

The State Auditor found no evidence of benefits or accounting of how the state and counties spent about \$17 Billion to date. And reported that it is impossible to determine if the state and counties comply with the law.

I can tell you that they do not comply. I worked for Attorney General Bill Lockyer to help launch the Oversight and Accountability Commission, Chaired by Darrell Steinberg for the first 3 1/2years. The Commission and proponents, with support from former Dept of Mental health implemented Prop 63 and spend money as though it is their own private foundation.

The voter guide and code sections of law were tossed out—grants invented and arbitrarily handed out to interest groups, FSP's with no state standards were invented with the mantra of “whatever it takes” which has no meaning in law. As a matter of practice, without an implementation plan, county programs are funded – AND APPROVED BY OAC with no knowledge of actual system needs. Counties and stakeholders were told for the first four years that Prop 63 is for new programs and new clients—a guide invented by the OAC and DMH.

There is no county data that suggests what kinds of services are critically needed—and so every bright idea from every special interest or commissioner is on the table. Integration of existing systems of care and Prevention programs are tossed out -- because the Mental Health Associations is eager to get into the WELLNESS business, which is a lot easier and more profitable than SMI, and psychosis, delusions, paranoia, anxiety depression.

This fiction about new programs and innovation is being perpetuated today by DHCS in memos to counties. The DMH Director once tried to explain it all to me by saying that they just decided to serve the most needy first.

Accountability can only be found in the true stories of consumers, families, frontline providers including law enforcement—and in the tragic statistics and news stories piling up in every part of this state—suicide deaths, crowded prisons and jails, people with MediCal waiting months for appts. ,and overrun ED's, with law enforcement and families as the primary service providers. The state and Prop 63 can certainly fund the quality, access, integration necessary for parity when the federal rule is enforced. I wrote a parity law for Assemblywoman Helen Thomson when she acted on the LHC reports of 2000-01, when you called for an end to rationing as a moral and fiscal imperative. Conditions have only declined in those 15 years that have passed.

Prop 63 defenders celebrate serving about 25,000 people with SMI or SED. We have at least 600,000 more waiting in the system.

Who or what leadership will finally fund right to treatment of serious mental illness on a par with physical illnesses in Medicaid?