

Nahid Rabieh
Department of Rehabilitation
100 Paseo De San Antonio #324
San Jose, CA. 95113

03/29/2012

Peter Lee. Executive Director
CA Health Benefit Exchange
2335 Capitol Oaks Dr. suite 120
Sacramento, CA. 95833

To Info. @

HIREX

(to Audan)

Re: Essential Health Benefits for Americans with Disabilities

Dear Peter:

In March, you should have received correspondence from the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) concerning health care reform and Essential Health Benefits. I am writing to you as a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) I am *working/residing/providing services to people with disabilities in San Jose, CA.*

I have been working as a Rehabilitation counselor for 15 years. I am a Certified Rehabilitation counselor, assisting people with all types of disabilities to become employed and be self sufficient.

As CRCC mentioned in its correspondence, rehabilitation counselors are uniquely trained to assist individuals with physical, mental, developmental, cognitive, sensorineuro, and emotional disabilities to achieve their personal, social, psychological and vocational goals. They counsel people with disabilities resulting from birth defects, illness or disease, accidents, or other causes. Graduate programs in rehabilitation counselor education provide training on the medical, psychosocial, and cultural aspects of disability; assistive technologies; assessment; and disability legislation. No other graduate programs require such specific disability training, all of which is focused on achieving employment and independent living for Americans with disabilities.

To be more specific I am providing the following services in my profession:

- *Assessment and appraisal;*
- *Diagnosis and treatment planning;*
- *Career (vocational) counseling and determination of the need for job retraining;*
- *Individual and group counseling treatment interventions focused on facilitating adjustments to the medical and psychosocial impact of disability;*
- *Case management, referral, and service coordination;*
- *Program evaluation and research;*
- *Interventions to remove environmental, employment, and attitudinal barriers;*
- *Consultation services among multiple parties and regulatory systems;*
- *Job analysis, job development, and placement services, including assistance with employment and job accommodations; and*
- *Consultation about and access to rehabilitation technology.]*

I am writing to support CRCC's request that you consider the role of rehabilitation counseling as you review federal guidance on Essential Health benefits to determine how your health plans will best cover the unique needs of Americans with disabilities. Rehabilitation counseling is an essential part of both rehabilitation and habilitation services – I urge you to give it due consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Rabieh', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Nahid Rabieh

Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC)