

17768 Montauk Circle
Riverside, CA 92503

April 3, 2012

Peter Lee
Executive Director
California Health Benefit Exchange
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 120
Sacramento, CA 95833

Re: Essential Health Benefits for Americans with Disabilities

Dear Peter Lee:

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) teaching vocational rehabilitation students and providing services to people with disabilities in California.

My students go on to provide services to disabled veterans, recovering people with disabilities, many with developmental disabilities, and disabled people who are returning to work. I am retired from the California Department of Rehabilitation after 38 years of service. I now provide forensic evaluation services and vocational rehabilitation to people injured and receiving workers' compensation service.

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.

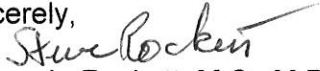
I have provided:

- *Assessment and appraisal;*
- *Diagnosis and treatment planning;*
- *Career (vocational) counseling and determination of the need for job retraining;*
- *Individual treatment interventions focused on facilitating adjustments to the medical and psychosocial impact of disability;*
- *Case management, referral, and service coordination;*
- *Program evaluation;*
- *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,



Steven L. Rockett, M.S., M.P.A.

Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC)