



April 10, 2014

The Honorable Ruth Astle
Office of Administrative Hearings
1515 Clay Street, Suite 206
Oakland, CA 94612

SENT VIA E-MAIL: oakfilings@dgs.ca.gov

RE: Case No. 2013110565

Dear Judge Astle:

I understand that you will serve as the Administrative Law Judge in a hearing scheduled to begin May 12, 2014 regarding a \$4 million fine levied against Kaiser Permanente for violating California's timely-access regulations and other mental health standards. We understand that Kaiser has formally asked to bar the public from attending next month's hearing. I write today to register our opposition to this proposal.

Next month's hearing has great importance for California's consumers and its mental health professionals. Kaiser is our state's largest health plan and reportedly is California's largest private-sector provider of mental health services. Furthermore, next month's hearing will evaluate important pieces of our state's mental health laws and regulatory framework. For example, the hearing will discuss the implementation of California's Mental Health Parity Pact and California's timely-access regulations, which came into force in January of 2011.

For these reasons along with the general principle of transparency in government proceedings, I urge you to fully protect the right of the public to attend next month's hearing and to review documentation produced during the hearing.

The California Psychological Association is a membership organization of more than 4,000 psychologists in the state of California. We represent the interests of more than 18,000 licensed psychologists in the state. Our members work in private practice, universities, corporations, hospitals, and state hospitals and prisons, as well as in many other settings.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. Please do not hesitate to have your staff contact me at 916-286-7979, ext. 115 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jo Linder-Crow, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer
California Psychological Association