



September 30, 2011

California Psychological Association Statement of Concern

Psychologists, nurses and other health professionals are making serious allegations that the policies of Kaiser Permanente are unduly restricting the access of its members to needed mental health services. The California Psychological Association (CPA) is deeply troubled by the allegations because, if true, the care of patients is being compromised.

Both federal and state mental health parity laws require that patients' access to mental health services be no more restrictive than to medical services. These laws were the result of a long and unfortunate history in the U.S. of mental health services taking a back seat to medical services.

CPA supports calls for objective review of the allegations by both federal and state regulators who have the responsibility for enforcing the mental health parity laws and ensuring that the lawful community standard of care is being fully observed. It is to be hoped that it will be found that Kaiser, a well-respected leader in integrated healthcare, is not placing profit before high quality patient services. CPA represents over 4,000 California psychologists who are dedicated to their patients receiving the care they need with full access to appropriate services.