



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Fred MacFarlane, (213) 369-8425

DATE: Thursday, April 9, 2015

Story for TOMORROW (Friday, April 10, 2015) at 8:30 a.m.

The Honorable Sebastian Ridley-Thomas, Chair, Assembly Select Committee on Mental and Behavioral Health to lead hearing on state support for individuals living with autism and persons suffering from mental illness

LOS ANGELES – 54th District Assembly Member Sebastian Ridley-Thomas will chair an informational hearing of the Assembly Select Committee on Mental and Behavioral Health tomorrow (Friday, April 10) to investigate mental and behavioral health challenges and opportunities in implementation of California’s landmark Mental Health Services Act of 2004, enacted by California voters as Proposition 63.

The Select Committee Hearing will convene Friday, April 10, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. at the California African American Museum in Exposition Park (600 State Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90037).

The nine-member Select Committee is scheduled to take testimony from representatives of Special Needs Network, a nonprofit community-based advocacy organization that assists South L.A. children with autism, ADHD and learning disabilities and their families; Shelton Dent, manager, Programs and Policy Branch, Developmental Disabilities; John Buck, vice chair, MHSOAC; and Dr. Marvin J. Southard, director, County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health.

State Senators Holly Mitchell and Isadore Hall, L.A. County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, and Assembly Member Jimmy Gomez will discuss important mental health funding issues during a special 7:30 a.m. legislative breakfast

meeting sponsored by Special Needs Network that precedes the select committee's hearing at the museum.

For more information, contact 54th Assembly District staff at (310) 342-1070.

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California's 54th Assembly District encompasses the City of Culver City and unincorporated Ladera Heights, and the Los Angeles communities of Mar Vista, Palms, Westwood, Cheviot Hills, Beverlywood, Faircrest Heights, Century City, Holmby Hills, Mid City, Lafayette Square, Baldwin Hills, View Park, Windsor Hills, Crenshaw District, Jefferson Park, Leimert Park and Park Mesa Heights. For more information on Assemblymember Sebastian Ridley-Thomas, go to: <http://asmdc.org/members/a54/>