



Stakeholder News

Dear Stakeholders,

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is providing this update of significant developments regarding DHCS programs.

Top News

California Heat Wave

A heat wave with dangerously high temperatures will continue to impact Northern California (Sacramento Valley, northern San Joaquin Valley, Delta, and adjacent foothills and mountains), Southern California (valleys and mountains of Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties), and San Diego County valleys into next week. Tips include: drinking plenty of water; never leaving people or pets in enclosed vehicles, even for a short period of time; rescheduling strenuous activities to early morning or evening; knowing the signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke; wearing light weight and loose fitting clothing; having access to water and shade to avoid heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke; and monitoring the latest forecasts and warnings for updates on this situation.

Californians in the affected areas are urged to take precautions in an effort to help reduce the risk of heat-related health problems. An excessive heat warning means that a prolonged period of dangerously hot temperatures will occur. This warning is targeted for the elderly or those who may be more sensitive to heat, and thus at greater risk. Individuals who fall into these categories should take special precautions by drinking plenty of water, reducing outdoor exposure, staying out of the sun, seeking a cooler location for the day if no air conditioning is available in the living quarters, and/or asking a friend or relative to check in on them frequently. Additionally, the heat wave will affect those working outside, and there will be a higher risk of power outages.

Please see the below links from the California Department of Public Health for information regarding heat-related emergencies:

- [Tips for Preventing Heat-Related Illness](#)
- [Tips for Treating Heat-Related Illness](#)
- [Seniors and Heat-Related Illness](#)
- [Children and Heat-Related Illness](#)
- [Protecting Your Pet During Hot Weather](#)

Finally, high record temperatures can lead to emergency situations. By following a few [important steps](#), you can keep yourself, your loved ones, neighbors, and pets comfortable and safe during a heat wave. Scroll through the map [here](#) to find a cooling center near you.

Program Updates

Abortion Access for Medi-Cal Beneficiaries

In accordance with Governor Newsom's efforts to defend access to reproductive health care, and consistent with DHCS' commitment to implement a comprehensive package of reproductive health care services, including abortion, in Medi-Cal, and without judgement or undue restrictions, DHCS is announcing planned changes to Medi-Cal reimbursement that will allow specified clinics to expand abortion services.

Effective October 1, the Medi-Cal program will provide Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), Rural Health Clinics (RHC), Indian Health Services Memorandum of Agreement (IHS-MOA), and Tribal FQHC providers with a new option to be reimbursed at a fee-for-service (FFS) rate for abortion services. FQHC, RHC, IHS-MOA, and Tribal FQHC clinic providers will receive the applicable FFS rate for covered abortion services under Medi-Cal. Providers will receive more guidance pertaining to billing in a forthcoming Medi-Cal NewsFlash.

Family Planning, Access, Care, and Treatment (PACT) Policy Update

On August 31, DHCS [published](#) provider enrollment and responsibilities policy updates for the Family PACT program, effective August 15. The updates: (1) clarify the requirements to enroll as a Family PACT provider, including administrative responsibilities, application completion, screening, program integrity, and compliance; and (2) merge policies related to Family PACT provider responsibilities into the provider enrollment section. Program integrity updates are aimed at ensuring provider suitability in the program and strengthening the prevention and detection of provider fraud, waste, and abuse of family planning services through enhanced provider enrollment requirements and screening, along with provider oversight and compliance monitoring. These policy updates apply to both provider applicants and currently enrolled Family PACT providers.

Elevate Youth California: Youth Substance Use Disorder Prevention Program

On August 30, DHCS, in partnership with The Center at Sierra Health Foundation, announced \$50.2 million in available funding for the Elevate Youth California: Youth Substance Use Disorder Prevention Program. Funded by revenue generated from Proposition 64, which legalized adult use of cannabis in California, this statewide program provides support and resources for community-based and Tribal organizations developing or increasing youth-focused community substance use disorder prevention and early intervention efforts.

Since the launch of the Elevate Youth California program in March 2020, The Center, under contract with DHCS, has awarded a total of \$130,604,000 million to 185 community-based and Tribal organizations. To qualify for this round of grant funding, eligible organizations must take the following approaches in their programming: Invest in

youth empowerment, leadership, and development; provide services and support through the cultural lens of the impacted community; and promote population-level impacts through policy, systems, and environmental change.

Grants of up to \$1 million per project will help fund organizations working with youth ages 12 to 26 years old in urban and rural areas of the state, particularly with communities of color, the Two-Spirit/LGBTQ+ communities, and those who are disproportionately impacted by the war on drugs. Applications are due on September 26 at 1 p.m. PDT, and funding will support prevention efforts through November 2025.

Proposers' webinars to review the funding opportunity and the application process will be held on September 7, from 10 - 11:30 a.m., and September 15, from 9:30 - 11 a.m. The request for applications and webinar registration are available on the Elevate Youth California website at <https://elevateyouthca.org/news/>. Please email elevateyouthca@shfcenter.org if you have any questions.

Call for Applications: CYBHI Workgroup for the Statewide All-Payer Fee Schedule

By September 12, individuals may [apply](#) to participate in a workgroup to inform the development of the statewide all-payer fee schedule for school-based behavioral health services under the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI). Through this workgroup, DHCS and the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) are seeking to engage partners – representing K-12 education, institutions of higher education, Medi-Cal managed care plans, commercial health plans, county behavioral health departments, behavioral health providers, associations, advocates, youth, and parents/caregivers – on a variety of policy and operational topics to inform the development and refinement of the program design.

DHCS and DMHC are committed to engaging a diverse and representative group of relevant partners on this topic. The first workgroup meeting is scheduled for October 3. Meeting details are being finalized and will be sent to selected workgroup members no later than September 19.

This workgroup series will meet virtually on a monthly basis for approximately four or five sessions. Meetings will be open to the public. DHCS will post information about this workgroup, including meeting dates, registration links, and membership roster, on the [CYBHI webpage](#).

CalAIM Providing Access and Transforming Health (PATH) Justice-Involved Capacity Building Program

On August 17, DHCS began awarding nearly \$4.2 million in grants for Round 1 of the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) PATH Justice-Involved Capacity Building Program. Through this initiative, DHCS provided planning grants to correctional agencies across the state to support collaborative planning with county social services departments and other enrollment implementation partners. The funds will be used to identify processes, protocols, and information technology (IT) system modifications that are needed to implement or modify pre-release Medi-Cal enrollment and suspension processes.

This funding will support 38 sheriff's offices and probation departments from 34 counties across the state, as well as the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Together, these correctional agencies are responsible for 110 adult jails and youth correctional facilities and 34 prisons across the state. The grant funding will have a transformational impact on these correctional agencies and the institutions they manage, and will further promote health equity for justice-involved individuals.

DHCS is currently accepting applications for Round 2 of the PATH Justice-Involved Capacity Building Program. In Round 2, correctional agencies and county social services departments are eligible to apply for implementation grants as they implement processes, protocols, and IT system modifications that are necessary to effectuate or modify pre-release Medi-Cal enrollment and suspension processes. The funding can be used for investments in personnel, infrastructure, capacity, IT systems, and other services and activities approved by DHCS. Entities are not required to have participated in Round 1 in order to apply for Round 2.

For more information about eligibility and the application submission process for Round 2, please view the [guidance memo](#) posted on the DHCS justice-involved webpage and the [Round 2 online application portal](#). If you have any questions about this funding opportunity, please email justice-involved@ca-path.com.

***Smile, California* Campaign for Medi-Cal Dental Services**

On September 1, a new video was published, as part of Pain Awareness Month, to the *Smile, California* website and social media accounts entitled, "Don't Wait until It Hurts to See the Dentist" in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). This video communicates the importance of scheduling regular dental visits to identify oral health problems early, highlights Medi-Cal covered dental services, and educates viewers about the value of being good oral health role models for their children.

As of August 26, the *Smile, California* website has received a total of 1,275,850 visits from 841,944 unique users, 652,863 clicks to the "Find a Dentist" button, and 154,743 downloads since the campaign launched in October 2018.

Upcoming Stakeholder Meetings and Webinars

CalAIM Webinar: ECM Long-Term Care Populations of Focus

On September 8 at 1:30 p.m., DHCS will host a webinar on CalAIM Enhanced Care Management (ECM) Long-Term Care Populations of Focus. [Advance registration](#) is required. Participants are invited to submit questions by September 5 to CalAIMECMILOS@dhcs.ca.gov, and attendees will be able to ask questions during the session. An additional "Office Hours" event will be held on September 22 at 2 p.m. (see below) for attendees to ask any other questions not covered during the webinar.

CalAIM Behavioral Health Workgroup meeting

On September 12, from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., DHCS will convene the CalAIM Behavioral Health Workgroup meeting. The goal of this meeting is to provide key updates related to the Mobile Crisis State Plan Amendment, CalAIM behavioral health initiatives, and the

population health management framework. Workgroup members will provide feedback on implementation and operational considerations.

This meeting will also be open to the public, in listen-only mode, with time for public comment at the end of the meeting. A recording of the webinar will be available following the event. [Registration](#) is now available.

Medi-Cal Children’s Health Advisory Panel (MCHAP) Meeting

On September 15, DHCS will host the next MCHAP hybrid meeting. Attendees can attend in person at DHCS’ West Sacramento location, 830 Stillwater Road, or virtually. [Advance registration](#) is required if attending virtually. The MCHAP is a 15-member independent statewide advisory body that advises DHCS on matters relevant to children enrolled in Medi-Cal. Meeting materials will be posted on the [DHCS website](#) closer to the meeting date. Please email MCHAP@dhcs.ca.gov with any questions.

CalAIM “Office Hours”: ECM Long-Term Care Populations of Focus

On September 22 at 2 p.m., DHCS will virtually host an “Office Hours” discussion on CalAIM ECM Long-Term Care Populations of Focus. This meeting is a follow up to the September 8 webinar on the ECM Long-Term Care Populations of Focus, and part of a series of “Office Hours” events focused on answering implementation questions from the field. Throughout the series, panelists representing managed care plans, providers, and community-based organizations currently implementing CalAIM will join DHCS leaders to answer questions posed by participants during the office hours session, received in previous webinars, or submitted via email or the registration page prior to the meeting.

[Advance registration](#) is required. Participants are invited to submit questions by September 19 to CalAIMECMILOS@dhcs.ca.gov.

Thank you,

Department of Health Care Services
www.dhcs.ca.gov



If you are not a subscriber and would like to receive these updates, please sign up on the DHCS [website](#). You also can view our [State Plan Amendments \(SPA\)](#), and find the most [recent data](#) on Medi-Cal enrollment. For questions or suggestions, contact us at DHCSCommunications@dhcs.ca.gov.

If you would like to unsubscribe from this list, [click here](#).