

Governor's Budget, New Name for Waiver Proposal, CBHA Highlighted by OPEN Minds and KVIE, and More!

Greetings Colleagues!

Can you believe that January is coming to an end already? Indeed, things are back in full swing since Session commenced, and CBHA is hard at work on behalf of our members. We are thrilled to have partnered with several allied organizations on policy letters to DHCS, and we are currently working with organizations to craft our budget and legislative proposals for 2020, to be introduced in the coming weeks. Stay tuned for how you can partner and provide support for our proposals.

Budget Overview

Many of you may have seen our comments on the Governor's budget proposal released two weeks ago. Governor Newsom once again focused on the needs within the behavioral health arena in his projected \$222 billion budget. In his almost three-hour briefing, he focused on various topics of import, including investments in education, housing, transforming Medi-Cal, and healthcare. The Governor began by pointing out that he has worked for months on this budget, which he takes very seriously, and that the budget acts as a "review of priorities" for the Administration.

Newsom proudly pointed out the state's record surpluses and the ability to pay down debts via the General Fund reserves. He added, California "leads the nation" in several areas, including having leaders in higher education, science, and the highest number of Nobel Laureates. Newsom said that Californians have innovation "running through our brains and veins." He warned, "The past does not equal the future... though we have had 11 years of economic growth, a slowing down of economic growth is occurring," but there are still some areas the state is falling short.

High level behavioral health budget allocations include:

- **Behavioral Health Task Force.** The Health and Human Services Agency will create a task force comprised of state and community level stakeholders. The mission is to review existing policies and programs to improve care and coordinate system transformation efforts as it relates to the impacts of mental illness and substance use disorders in communities.
- **Medi-Cal Healthier California For All (MHCFA).** Proposes \$695 million, to grow, to \$1.4 billion in 2020-2021, and 2022-2023, to fund the MHCFA, which builds upon the Whole Person Care, Coordinated Care Initiative, and other model programs initiated as part of prior demonstration waivers. \$45.1 million in 2020-2021 and \$42 million in 2021-2022 million are also allotted for DHCS to establish a Behavioral Health Quality Improvement Program to incentivize system change and process improvement for counties.
- **Housing and Homelessness.** Invests \$750 million to establish the California Access to Housing and Services Fund to create affordable housing units, rental subsidies, and bolster board and care homes.
- **Schools.** Includes \$300 million for community school models to support mental health and the whole child, including funding for wrap around models. It also includes \$350 million one-time Proposition 98 funds for a competitive grant process for LEAs to conduct training in high needs

areas, including mental health interventions.

- **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) Investment.** The state will invest \$10 million one-time funds for the establishment of an ACES cross-sector training program and public awareness campaign.
- **Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Changes.** The Administration will submit a proposal in the Spring regarding its suggestions for changes to the MHSA. The Governor has stated interest in making substance use disorder providers and treatment eligible for MHSA funding. There is also a desire to fund services for individuals with mental illness who are experiencing homelessness, incarcerated populations, and early intervention methods targeted at youth.
- **Corrections.** The state will invest \$289.7 million in transforming the Division of Juvenile Justice to the Department of Youth and Community Restoration to provide trauma informed and developmentally appropriate services to youth who are involved in the justice system. It also funds a six-year Community Collaborative Pilot Program in three counties to provide incentives to treat individuals deemed incompetent to stand trial and who are homeless and experiencing mental illness. \$3.8 million in one-time funds allocated to retrofit intake cells within prisons to help prevent inmates from committing suicide. A proposed \$5.9 million to expand telepsychiatry services for incarcerated individuals.
- **Training.** The budget includes \$4.5 million to provide training in person centered, trauma-informed, and evidence-based support services to individuals with co-occurring developmental disabilities and mental health conditions.
- **Child Welfare.** Proposes \$598 million for children and families involved in the child welfare system, which is an increase of \$38.9 million from the 2019 budget. There is \$546 million allotted to continue the Continuum of Care Reform program and to provide greater coordination of child welfare and mental health services.

A more detailed summary of Governor Newsom's proposed budget and resources about the behavioral health provisions of the budget is below:

Full Budget Summary
FY 2020-21 Governor's Budget DHCS Budget Highlights
November 2019 Medi-Cal Estimate

New Name for Waiver Proposal Announced

Shortly after returning from Interim, we learned DHCS renamed California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) to "Medi-Cal Healthier California for All" (MHCA). In this [message](#), the new name explained that it is more consistent with the Governor's "Health for All" campaign.

As you have seen, CBHA has been very active with the MHCA stakeholder process. DHCS has scheduled a myriad of meetings to discuss various elements of the MHCA proposal. We have five representatives appointed to the Behavioral Health, Payment Reform, and Full Integration Pilot workgroups.

The level of participation in submitting written responses about elements of the MHCA has been robust. CBHA has already submitted three feedback letters to DHCS. We are grateful for our partners from the California Alliance of Child and Family Services for joining us to write a [letter](#) in response to the Enhanced Care Management proposal. We also appreciate our colleagues at the County Behavioral Health Directors Association for writing a [joint letter](#) with general comments about the proposal. The most recent [letter](#) CBHA submitted was in response to the payment reform sections of MHCA. OPEN Minds reviewed the payment reform letter and have requested that we allow them to publish the letter in one of their upcoming publications shared with organizations across the nation!

Mental Health for US *Unite for Change* Rally

CBHA was proud to join several behavioral health organizations to serve as a host of the Mental Health for US *Unite for Change* Rally. This event took place on January 13, 2020, at the University of Southern California. It was a wonderful opportunity to join other behavioral health organizations to raise the level of awareness about behavioral health disorders. The event included national media personalities as moderators and highlighted local celebrities as well. Missed the Rally? Read more about it [here](#).

California Access Coalition and California Life Sciences Association Briefing

The [CAC](#), a group of behavioral health, patient advocate, governmental groups, and pharmaceutical companies, who collaborate to advocate for patient access to behavioral health treatment, is hosting a briefing and lunch at the California State Library in Sacramento on February 10, 2020. The CAC is partnering with the California Life Sciences Association and Senator Jim Beall to host [a legislative briefing](#). Andrew Sperling of the National Alliance for Mental Illness will be one of the highlighted speakers as well as a few CAC member company representatives. Consider joining us in Sacramento for this great event, and RSVP soon!

CBHA Highlighted on KVIE Studio Sacramento Program

Last, I had the opportunity to discuss my thoughts about the behavioral health system during KVIE's Studio Sacramento television show in November. [Click here](#) to see the episode.

If you have questions about [CBHA's 2020 Policy Platform](#) and how your organization can partner with us on legislation, policy letters, or events, please do not hesitate to contact Simon Vue, Legislative Coordinator, at svue@cccbha.org.

In Service,
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