

A Season of Thanksgiving

Greetings Colleagues,

November is a month where we express our gratefulness for the many ways our lives have been enriched. I am grateful for those in our behavioral health community whom I have been blessed to work with. As I reflect on my past two years at CBHA, I am astonished at all the positive changes that have occurred in our community. New leadership at many levels of state government, new policy and legislative opportunities, collaborations between allied organizations, and the changes our state will see as we all embark on exploring restructuring our behavioral health system. As you take time away from work to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday next week, I hope you too will reflect on the many opportunities that exist for growth within our behavioral health arena.

Policy Platform

During the Interim, CBHA released our 2020 Policy Platform, with the support of our Policy Committee members, the Board of Directors, and others who contributed to the shaping of our 2020 priorities. Special thanks to you all! Please visit the [CBHA website](#) if you have not seen it yet.

CBHA Co-Hosts Mental Health for US *Unite for Change Rally* and Presidential Candidate Forum

CBHA is proud to join a number of other organizations and serve on the host committee of the Mental Health for US *Unite for Change Rally* and Presidential Candidate Forum on January 13, 2020, at the University of Southern California. This is a wonderful opportunity to join our allied behavioral health organizations to raise the level of awareness about behavioral health by designing a forum where the presidential candidates will engage in discussions about their plans to address mental illness, substance abuse disorders, and their focus on homelessness and other issues that are prevalent in the Los Angeles area. This is poised to be a stellar event that will include national media personalities as moderators, celebrities and many more. Check out the [website](#) and register for the event [here](#).

CalAIM

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has released the CalAIM proposal, the state's initiative to innovate the Medi-Cal delivery system in the coming years. With the state's current Section 1115 and 1915(b) waivers expiring in 2020, DHCS developed the CalAIM initiative to set the course for a broader Medi-Cal delivery system.

CalAIM advances several key priorities of the Newsom Administration by leveraging Medi-Cal as a tool to help address many of the complex challenges facing California's most vulnerable residents, such as homelessness, insufficient behavioral health care access, children with complex medical conditions, the growing number of justice-involved populations who have significant clinical needs, and the state's aging population.

According to DHCS, “CalAIM recognizes the opportunity to provide non-clinical interventions focused on population health, whole person care approach that targets the social determinants of health and reduces health disparities and inequities in order to improve health outcomes for all Californians.”

Ultimately, the implementation of any CalAIM proposals will depend upon receiving funding approvals both at the federal and state levels.

The CalAIM workgroups are:

1. [Population Health Management Strategy and Annual Health Plan Open Enrollment](#)
2. [Enhanced Care Management and In Lieu of Services](#)
3. [Behavioral Health](#)
4. [Behavioral Health Payment Reform - subgroup](#)
5. [National Committee for Quality Assurance Accreditation](#)
6. [Full Integration Plans](#)

CBHA is pleased to have five representatives on the CalAIM Workgroups!

They include:

1. **Le Ondra Clark Harvey**, CBHA staff- Full Integration Plans Workgroup
2. **Vitka Eisen**, HealthRIGHT360, CBHA Board Chair- Behavioral Health Workgroup
3. **Al Senella**, Tarzana Treatment Centers, CBHA Board Member- Behavioral Health, Behavioral Health Payment Reform, Full Integration Plans Workgroups
4. **Lorna Jones**, Bonita House, CBHA Board Member- Behavioral Health, Behavioral Health Payment Reform, Full Integration Plans Workgroups
5. **Chad Costello**, Mental Health America, Los Angeles- Behavioral Health, Behavioral Health Payment Reform, Full Integration Plans Workgroups

California Access Coalition Annual Retreat

If you have not had an opportunity to check out the California Access Coalition (CAC) this past year, you are missing out! CBHA is managing the CAC, an organization founded by Rusty Selix in 1996. The CAC is a unique coalition of behavioral health advocacy groups, governmental groups, and pharmaceutical companies. The CAC is having its Annual Membership Retreat at the Golden 1 Arena on December 9, 2019. [Click here](#) for more information about the retreat and [registration information](#).

There are many ways that we hope to partner with your organizations in 2020! If you have questions about CBHA's Policy Platform and legislative plans for 2020, or any of the aforementioned information, please do not hesitate to contact Simon Vue, Legislative Coordinator, at svue@cccbha.org.

In Service,
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Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs