

California Advocacy Network for Children with Special Health Care Needs

News, policy updates, resources, events, and advocacy opportunities

Note – Welcome to our abbreviated holiday edition of the Network Newsletter. The next full issue is scheduled for publication on January 9, 2020. Our best wishes for a peaceful holiday and a healthful new year.

Family Engagement

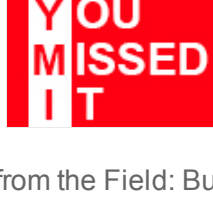
New Grantmaking Policy: Family Engagement Required

One of the priority areas for our Foundation is ensuring that families are involved at all levels of policymaking in the health care systems that serve them. To that end we have implemented a policy requiring that family members have a meaningful role in all our grant-funded activities, and that project budgets include compensation for these roles. [Read about the new policy](#) and find suggestions about how various stakeholders can get started on promoting enhanced family engagement.

Feds Seek Information about Family Caregiving Challenges

The national Recognize, Assist, Include, Support and Engage Family Caregivers Act (the [RAISE Act](#)) became law in January 2018. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop and maintain a national strategy to recognize and support family caregivers, and to organize an Advisory Council to make recommendations. Now, in preparation for the Advisory Council's initial report to Congress, HHS is providing an opportunity for individuals and organizations to submit information on the challenges faced by caregivers. This information will help guide the development of the national family caregiving strategy. To offer your thoughts, submit this [form](#) by **February 7, 2020**.

Encouraging Family-Clinician Partnerships



The [slides and a recording](#) of the webinar "Stories from the Field: Building a Transformative Partnership with Families and Clinicians" are now posted to our website.

California Children's Services

CCS Advisory Group to Meet

Date Wednesday, January 15
Time 10 a.m. – TBD
Location 1700 K Street, Sacramento – First Floor Conference Room
Dial-In (888) 989-6488; Passcode: 1945234
Details Find information on the Advisory Group [website](#).

Research

Adverse Childhood Experiences More Common Among CSHCN, Study Finds

Children with special health care needs (CSHCN) are more likely to have adverse experiences – such as having a divorced parent or guardian, witnessing violence, or lacking basic food and housing – than children without special needs, according to a Child Trends analysis of data from the 2016-17 National Survey of Children's Health. Given the negative effects these experiences can have on a child's physical and mental health, increased attention from health, education, and social service providers is warranted, the researchers suggest. [Read more](#).

Webinar

Fair Housing Protections for Children and Adults with Disabilities

Date Wednesday, January 8
Time 12 to 1 p.m. Pacific Time
Sponsor Family Voices of California
Details Naomi Sultan, a supervising attorney and leader of the housing law program at Mental Health Advocacy Services, Inc, will explain California's Fair Housing law and discuss disability-related issues, including discrimination and reasonable/unreasonable accommodations. [Register](#).

California Policy

Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) Stakeholder Webinar

Date Monday, January 6
Time 2 to 4 p.m. Pacific Time
Dial-In (800) 779-8164; Passcode: 3033208
Sponsor California Department of Social Services
Details The agenda will be posted on the [EVV Stakeholder Meeting webpage](#) prior to the meeting. EVV is a system that electronically verifies that in-home service visits occurred. The federal government requires that all states implement EVV for Medicaid-funded personal care services by January 2020, and for home health services by January 2023. [Register](#).

National Policy

In Brief

- [Coverage of Over-the-Counter Drugs in Medicaid](#) – A fact sheet from The National Health Law Program
- [Update on Federal Surprise Billing Legislation: Understanding a Flurry of New Proposals](#) – An analysis from The Commonwealth Fund

Resource

- *Exceptional Parent Magazine* December Issue – [Family, Community and the Holidays](#)

In the News

- [Wheelchairs on Planes: Why Can't Passengers Use Their Own Onboard?](#)
NPR Shots, 12/10/19
- [Cruise Line Going 'Sensory Inclusive.'](#)
Disability Scoop, 12/10/19

We'd like to hear from you

Let us know what's happening with your organization or family. Email newsletter editor Eileen Walsh at Eileen.Walsh@lpfch.org with your news or updates.

