



Mental Health Policy Briefing:
**Raising the Priority of California Children with
Special Health Care Needs**

May 8, 2019



Today's Moderator:

Holly Henry Ph.D.

Research Program Manager

Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health

Housekeeping

Enter questions in the GoToWebinar question box.
A recording will be posted to lpfch.org/cshcn and shared via email.

Today's Briefing

- Overview of Medi-Cal mental health system for children
- Current policy landscape
- Opportunities for advocacy

Meet Our Speakers



Kimberly Lewis

Managing Attorney

Los Angeles, National Health Law Program



Abigail Coursole

Senior Attorney

Los Angeles, National Health Law Program





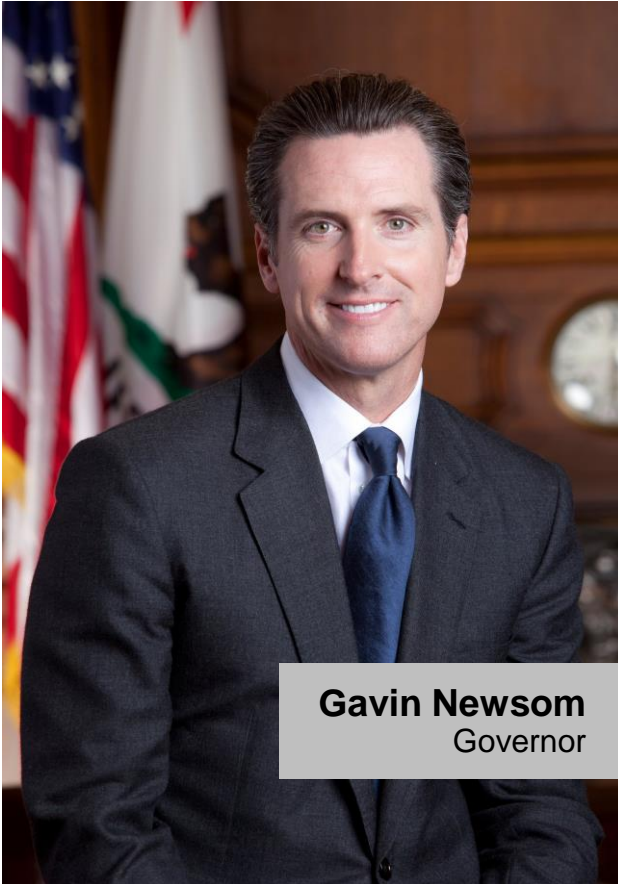
NATIONAL HEALTH LAW PROGRAM

National public interest law firm working to advance access to quality health care and protect the legal rights of low-income and underserved people.

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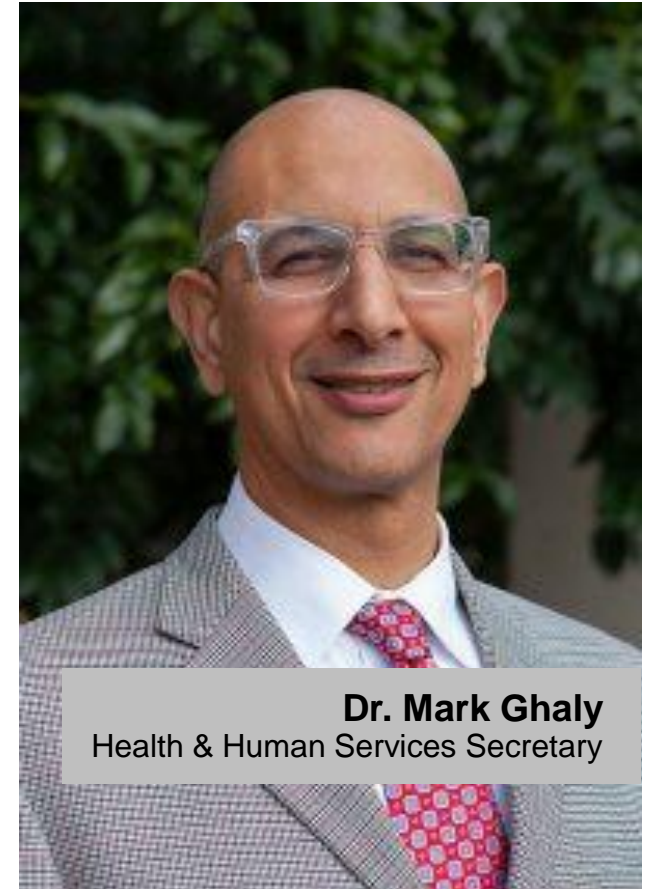
New Leaders Prioritizing Children's Health



Gavin Newsom
Governor



Dr. Nadine Burke Harris
Surgeon General



Dr. Mark Ghaly
Health & Human Services Secretary

Medi-Cal Mental Health Services

For Children with Special Health Care Needs

Medi-Cal Mental Health Delivery Systems

Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans (MCP)

Target Population

Children and adults eligible for outpatient non-specialty mental health services (adults: mild to moderate conditions)

Non-Specialty Mental Health Services

Carved-in Effective 1/1/14

Mental Health Services

- Individual and group mental health evaluation and treatment (psychotherapy)
- Psychological testing when clinically indicated to evaluate a mental health condition
- Outpatient services for monitoring drug therapy
- Outpatient laboratory, medications, supplies, and supplements
- Psychiatric consultation

Alcohol Abuse Services

- Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment

County Mental Health Plan (MHP)

Target Population

Children and adults with disabling conditions that require mental health treatment (children; adults w/ severe cond.)

Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services

Outpatient Services

- Mental Health Services (assessments, plan development, therapy, rehabilitation and collateral, medication support)
- Day Treatment services and rehabilitation
- Crisis intervention and stabilization
- Targeted Case Management
- EPSDT specialty mental health services

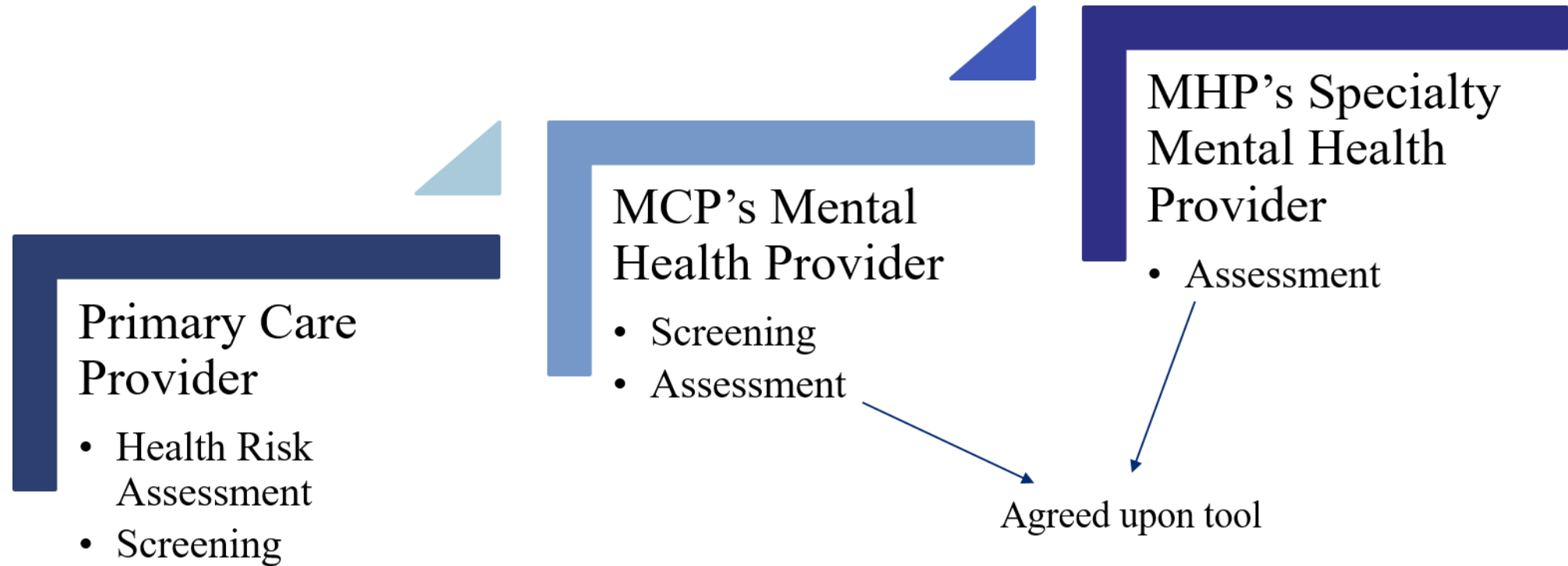
Inpatient Services

- Acute psychiatric inpatient hospital services
- Psychiatric Health Facility services
- Psychiatric Inpatient Hospital Professional Services if the beneficiary is in a FFS hospital

Access to Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS)

- Included diagnosis
- Condition not responsive to physical health care treatment
- Meet medical necessity

Screening and Referral Pathways



Special Medi-Cal Rules for Children Under 21

Early & Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment

Early & Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT)

- *Medicaid is an entitlement:* mandatory services for Medi-Cal eligible children and youth up to age 21
- State (MCPs) must screen all children on Medi-Cal for health and behavioral health needs
- Covers ALL treatment necessary to “*correct or ameliorate physical and mental illnesses and conditions,*” even if a service is not covered under the Medicaid State Plan

Specialty Mental Health Services (from lawsuits)

Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS)

Intensive Care Coordination (ICC)

Intensive Home Based Services (IHBS)

Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC)

Current Policy Goals

Legislative and Administrative

AB 1175: Improving the relationship between County Mental Health Plans and Medi-Cal Health Plans

- **Stronger requirements for coordination of care**
When moving between plans, including requirement to track referrals
- **More data collection**
What happens when people move between plans, and when services are denied
- **Requirements that both plans provide continuity of care**
With an existing provider where appropriate
- **Stronger requirements for resolving disputes**
When neither plan will accept responsibility for providing mental health care

Other Bills to Watch this Year

- **AB 763:** Streamlines paperwork required for pediatric mental health providers who participate in Medi-Cal
- **AB 512:** Requires Mental Health Plans to report on cultural competency, and the state to monitor mental health disparities
- **AB 1676:** Allows expanded use of telehealth to ensure access to mental health services during pregnancy and post-partum period
- **SB 10:** Requires state to establish a peer, parent, transition-age (youth), and family support specialist certification program
- **SB 12:** Establishes an Integrated Youth Mental Health Program (under MHSA OAC) to establish integrated service centers for youth ages 12-25 and their families

Administrative Advocacy

Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

- **Medi-Cal (Waiver) Stakeholder Advisory Group**
Oversees the Medi-Cal program as a whole
- **Medi-Cal Managed Care Advisory Group**
Opportunity to give input on health plan issues
- **Medi-Cal Children's Health Advisory Panel**
Focus on children's issues in Medi-Cal
- **Behavioral Health Stakeholder Advisory Committee**
Just announced

NHeLP Policy Priority:

Implementation of SB 1287 (EPSDT Medical Necessity standard)

Ways to Engage in Policy and Advocacy

Action and Opportunities

How can you get involved?

Boards or Commissions

- Local Health Plan
- Local Mental Health Plan
- Local Board of Supervisors
- Provider organizations

Stakeholder Meetings

- State Medi-Cal meetings
- MHSA Community Planning Process; Oversight & Accountability Commission
- Plan or Provider organization Advisory Groups

Share Your Story

- Press stories
- Letters to the Editor
- Op-Eds

Resources and Groups to Follow

Stay Informed

Advocates for Children

Groups You Should Know About

Health Consumer Alliance

healthconsumer.org

Disability Rights California

disabilityrightscalifornia.org

California Children's Trust

cachildrenstrust.org

Family Voices

familyvoicesofca.org

Additional Information

From National Health Law Program (healthlaw.org/resource-library):

Medi-Cal Mental Health Services, *January 2017*

Access to Mental Health Services for Children with Special Health Care Needs: Analysis and Recommendations, *August 2017*

Navigating The Challenges of Medi-Cal's Mental Health Services in California: An Examination of Care Coordination, Referrals and Dispute Resolution, *November 2018*

Substance Use Disorders in Medi-Cal: An Overview, *February 2019*

DHCS Model Beneficiary Handbook :

- **Specialty Mental Health Services**
- **Managed Care Plan Services**

Stay in Touch



Kimberly Lewis

Managing Attorney

Los Angeles, National Health Law Program

lewis@healthlaw.org



Abigail Coursole

Senior Attorney

Los Angeles, National Health Law Program

coursole@healthlaw.org



healthlaw.org



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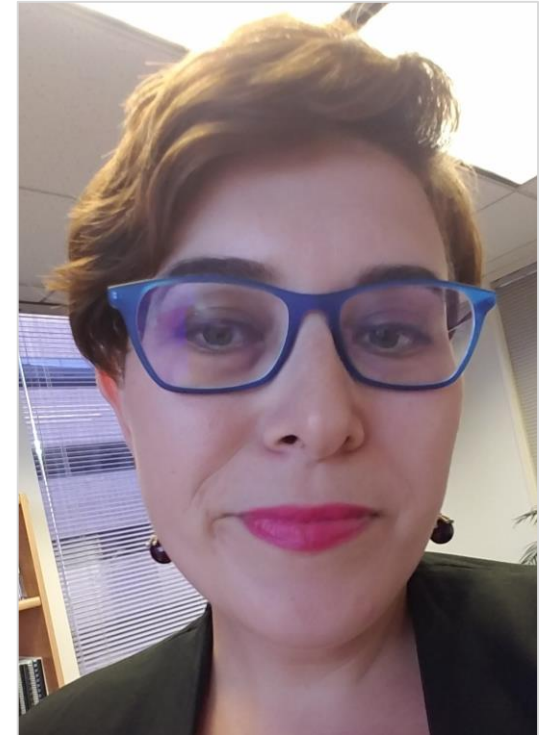
Submit your questions in the Question Box



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