

## Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs NETWORK NEWSLETTER

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

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### NATIONAL POLICY

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#### What States and Providers Need to Know About Medicaid and the Budget Reconciliation Process

Though there is no clarity at present about how the ongoing budget talks will unfold in Congress, it is clear that Medicaid, a key program for many CYSHCN and their families, is a target for cuts. Regularly updated articles from *The 80 Million*, a newsletter sponsored by Manatt, track the budget reconciliation process, which will determine the outcome of Medicaid funding.

[Read the article](#)

**Also see:** [Overview of Potential Medicaid Changes in 2025 Budget Reconciliation Bill](#), which includes an explanation of the reconciliation process from Grantmakers in Health.

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#### National, California Polls: Overwhelming Support for Medicaid Across the Board

Two recent polls assessed public views toward potential cuts to Medicaid. A [KFF Health Tracking Poll](#) found that nationally fewer than one in five adults (17%) want to see Medicaid funding decreased, and most think funding should either increase (42%) or be kept about the same (40%). Findings from a [California Health Care Foundation \(CHCF\)](#) survey of a representative sample of Californians indicate that 80% of Democrats, 75% of Independents, and 62% of Republicans agree that the program should generally stay as it is today.

[Read the KFF National Medicaid Poll Results](#)

[Read the CHCF Medicaid Survey Results](#)

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#### Department of Education Staff Cuts Will Affect Students with Disabilities

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The Trump Administration has [cut staff at the Department of Education by half](#), with plans for more changes. In an opinion piece, Katy Neas, CEO of The Arc of the United States, writes that the [Department of Education Helps Students with Disabilities. Don't Let It Disappear](#).

[Read the opinion piece](#)

**Also see:** [As Education Department Slashes Nearly Half Its Staff, Special Ed Worries Mount](#) - from *Disability Scoop*.

## TRANSITION TO ADULT CARE

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### Webinar: Bridging the Gap - Supporting Health Care Transitions for Students with Disabilities

This webinar, sponsored by the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition and Got Transition, will explore the essential services and resources needed for health care transition, emphasizing the roles of education, vocational rehabilitation, school nurses, and external supports. Speakers will offer practical strategies to ensure that this process is engaging and empowering for youth and families. 1.5 CRC credits available.

**DATE/TIME:** Thursday, April 3 | 11 am - 12 pm PT

[Learn more and register](#)

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### Research: Evaluating Clinician Experience in Health Care Transition

Structured health-care transition (HCT) programs are meant to help youth and young adults with and without special health care needs manage their care. In a January 2025 article published in the *Journal of Adolescent Health*, clinicians reported benefits from providing a structured HCT process using [Got Transition's 6 Core Elements](#) and having a health system champion, while noting the need for additional time and investment in improving HCT processes.

[Read the article](#)

## CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL COMPLEXITY

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### Impact Story: Virtual Cafe Series – The Future of Care for Children with Medical Complexity

Nationally recognized experts in the care of children with medical complexity (CMC) made presentations and led discussions at a six-part interdisciplinary virtual series throughout 2024. The cafe series, supported by our Foundation and hosted by Boston University School of Social Work's Center for Innovation in Social Work and Health, built on the 2022 Future of Care for Children with Medical Complexity National Convening and a [Pediatrics supplement](#). An article from our Foundation summarizes key insights and

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recommendations from each cafe discussion, and highlights what the team behind the series has planned as next steps.

[Read the impact story](#)

## PALLIATIVE CARE

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### Webinar Series Explores Advanced Pediatric Pain and Symptom Management

Join the Pediatric Palliative Care Coalition for a three-part "Deeper Dive" webinar series on pediatric pain and symptom management, presented by a board-certified pediatric pharmacist. Medical professionals, clinicians, and providers will learn about the most urgent issues for children and adolescents with medical complexity, including those receiving palliative care and possibly end-of-life care. All webinars are scheduled from 9 am - 10 am PT. Fees are required for participation.

- April 4: Effective and Comprehensive Approaches to Pediatric Pain Management
- April 11: Beyond the Prescription: Rethinking Nausea and Vomiting in Pediatric Palliative Care
- April 18: Breath, Balance and Comfort: Managing Secretions, Constipation and Dyspnea

[Learn more and register](#)

## CALIFORNIA POLICY

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### Medicaid Cuts Could Upend Lives of Children with Disabilities

A new *California Health Report* article details how California's CYSHCN and their families would be harmed by the potential billions of dollars in federal cuts to Medicaid. The article highlights the perspectives of concerned parents of CYSHCN and advocates to underscore that Medi-Cal (Medicaid in California) pays for the critical medical care and supports that CYSHCN need. The article also provides budget experts' insights on how the state can prepare for possible changes to the program.

[Read the article](#)

**Also see:** [Protect Medi-Cal Funding 2025: Children and Youth](#), a resource from the National Health Law Program.

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### Viewpoint: How to Stand Up for Kids with Disabilities Despite Federal Changes

Jennifer McLelland, disability rights columnist at *California Health Report* and parent of a child with medical complexity, reflects on the importance of standing up to exclusionary practices to ensure that children with disabilities are being protected. McLelland offers guidance on inclusion that is applicable for everyone from children to politicians

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[Read the article](#)

## CALIFORNIA CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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### CCS Advisory Group Quarterly Meeting

**DATE/TIME:** Wednesday, April 9 | 1 - 4 pm PT

**Location:** 1700 K Street, Sacramento, and virtually

**Details:** Find dial-in information and the agenda on the [Advisory Group website](#).

[Learn more](#)

## PEER SUPPORT

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### Upcoming: Engaging Adolescents and Young Adults in Peer Support

At a Town Hall on Peer Support for Young Adults with Chronic Conditions, speakers will unpack findings from a [Generation Patient](#) roundtable on engaging adolescents and young adults with chronic conditions. The town hall is appropriate for health care professionals, researchers, funders, young adults with chronic conditions, and care partners/givers.

[Register for the town hall](#)

[Learn more about the roundtable](#)

## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

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### Recording of Family-Led Academic Grand Rounds; Series Continues in May

The recording and slides from Say What? Language Matters, the second session of six Family-Led Academic Grand (FLAG) Rounds, are now available. FLAG Rounds train and empower families of children with complex medical conditions to share their experiences with medical students and residents. FLAG Rounds are approved to offer continuing education credits.

**Register** for the [May 29 no-cost FLAG Rounds](#) and two upcoming Rounds.

[View the recording](#)

## RESOURCES

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### Exceptional Parent Magazine March Issue: Vision, Hearing, and Speech

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This issue of *Exceptional Parent Magazine* includes stories on self-determination and self-advocacy skills in teens with hearing loss, advancing home health care for children with complex medical needs, and other topics of importance for families of children with vision, hearing, and speech needs.

[Read the magazine](#)

## LINKEDIN

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### Partnership with Families, Youth, and Communities Takes Center Stage at AMCHP 2025

This month, our Foundation's Program for CYSHCN team attended the annual conference of the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs. Read our [LinkedIn post](#) to learn what family leaders have to say about forming genuine partnerships with families of CYSHCN to improve systems of care.

[Follow our LinkedIn page](#)

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

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Let us know what's happening with your organization or program. Send news and updates to [info@lpfch.org](mailto:info@lpfch.org). Thank you!

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