

California Advocacy Network

for Children with Special Health Care Needs

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

California Children's Services

New Draft Documents on Whole-Child Model Transition

As 21 counties prepare for the Whole-Child Model (WCM), which moves some CCS children into Medi-Cal managed care plans, the Department of Health Care Services has released drafts of several documents that stakeholders may find of interest:

- A draft Numbered Letter that provides guidance to [local county CCS programs](#) (PDF) on their requirements under the WCM.
- A draft notice providing guidance on the WCM to all [CCS-paneled providers](#) (PDF).
- A draft letter to provide direction to [Medi-Cal managed care plans](#) (PDF) on their requirements under the WCM.

Questions about the Whole-Child Model may be sent to CCSRedesign@dhcs.ca.gov

CCS Advisory Group to Meet

- Date** Wednesday, April 4
Time 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Pacific Time
Location 1700 K Street, Sacramento – First Floor Conference Room
Dial In (888) 989-6488; Passcode (listen only): 1945234
Details Agenda and details will be posted on the Department of Health Care Services [website](#).

Care Coordination

Webinar on Complexity Tiering: Recording, Slides Now Available



A February 28 online conversation featured three authors of a [new report](#) that introduces complexity tiering for children with chronic and complex conditions. The speakers described current tiering practices and uses, made recommendations for policy and research, and answered questions from the audience. [View the recorded webinar and presentation slides.](#)

Also See archived webinar: [Measuring Family Experience of Care Integration to Improve Care Delivery](#)

Research

Report: Caring for an Individual with a Rare Disease

A new report from the National Alliance for Caregiving takes an in-depth look at the experiences and challenges of caregivers of individuals with rare diseases and conditions. The report notes that the majority of these individuals take care of a child and are immediate relatives. The report offers policy recommendations, including the need for respite care and counseling, financial support and workplace protection, training for caregivers, and more. Read [Rare Disease Caregiving in America](#) (PDF).

Network News

Spend Four Minutes – Enter to Win a Gift Card

This is the last week to complete a survey regarding the format and content of this newsletter. Please fill out the survey so we can better tailor topics to meet your needs. Then enter to win a \$50 Amazon gift card. Thank you to all who have already responded – average time to complete is just four minutes. [Take the survey.](#)

California Policy

Senate Subcommittee Considers In-Home Supportive Services

Various aspects of the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program, which delivers personal care to many children who have disabilities, were on the agenda of a March 8 Senate budget subcommittee hearing. Topics included provider payment rates, faster provider enrollment, privacy concerns related to implementation of an electronic verification program, and possible cuts in provider hours. Watch the [archived broadcast](#) of the session (beginning at the 4:30 mark; public comment at 5:46).

Also See: [Home Health Adherence Slashes Medicare Costs, Readmissions](#)

National Policy

In Brief

- [Medicaid's Role for Children with Special Health Care Needs: A Look at Eligibility, Services, and Spending](#) – from the Kaiser Family Foundation
- [How Do Medicaid/CHIP Children with Special Health Care Needs Differ from Those with Private Insurance?](#) – from the Kaiser Family Foundation

Special Education

Series Examines Implementation of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

The National Council on Disability has published a five-part series on the current state of policy and practice of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), along with assessment of progress or non-progress, and recommendations for improvement. Topics include underfunding of IDEA and segregation of students with disabilities. [Read more.](#)

Resources

- [Complex Child](#) Teens and Young Adults edition
- [National Center for Medical Home Implementation](#) – provides information about pediatric medical home activities, partners, and stakeholders in California.
- [Amazon Offers Prime Discount for Medicaid Recipients](#)

Webinars

Rolling Up Our Sleeves: How to Plan and Implement Quality Improvement Activities Focused on Family Engagement

Date Thursday, March 22

Time 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Pacific Time

Sponsor National Center for Medical Home Implementation and the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs

Details This webinar will provide family leaders, pediatric clinicians, and others with tools and resources to plan a quality improvement project to engage families and enhance family-centeredness in pediatric health care. [Register](#).

Funding Opportunity

Grants Available for Quality Measurement

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is [funding initiatives](#) to develop quality measures for the Merit-based Incentive Payment System. The focus is on specialists, including orthopedic surgery, mental health, and palliative care, rather than primary care. CMS will use the \$30 million in grants to partner with physicians, patient advocacy organizations, health systems, and other stakeholders. [Read more about how to apply](#) (PDF).

In the News

- [House Rejects Bill to Give Patients a 'Right to Try' Experimental Drugs](#)
NY Times, 3/13/18
- [Photos of the 2018 Winter Paralympics](#)
The Atlantic, 3/13/18
- [Early Childhood Advocates Turn to Pediatrician's Office as Key Hub for Screening Kids and Helping Parents](#)
Center for Health Journalism, 3/2/18
- [Few Parents Plan for Future of Children with Disabilities, Study Finds](#)
Disability Scoop, 2/22/18
- [A Barrier Breaks: An Actress with Down Syndrome Plays the Lead](#)
NY Times, 2/14/18

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.

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