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## Medi-Cal Healthier California for All High Level Summary

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has developed a framework for the upcoming waiver renewals that encompasses broader delivery system, program and payment reform across the Medi-Cal program, called Medi-Cal Healthier California for All (formerly known as CalAIM: California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal). This initiative advances several key priorities of the Administration by leveraging Medicaid 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 growing aging population. This proposal recognizes the opportunity to provide for non-clinical interventions focused on a whole-person care approach via Medi-Cal that target social determinants of health and reduce health disparities and inequities. Furthermore, the broader system, program, and payment reforms included in the initiative allow the state to take a population health, person-centered approach to providing services and puts the focus on improving outcomes for all Californians. Attaining such goals will have significant impact on an individual's health and quality of life, and through iterative system transformation, ultimately reduce the per-capita cost over time. DHCS intends to work with the Administration, Legislature and our other partners on these proposals and recognizes the important need to discuss these issues and their prioritization within the state budget process. These are initial proposals whose implementation will ultimately depend on whether funding is available.

### Background and Overview

Medi-Cal has significantly expanded and changed over the last ten years, most predominantly because of changes brought by the Affordable Care Act and various federal regulations as well as state-level statutory and policy changes. During this time, the DHCS has also undertaken many initiatives and embarked on innovative demonstration projects to improve the beneficiary experience. In particular, DHCS has increased the number of beneficiaries receiving the majority of their physical health care through Medi-Cal managed care plans. These plans are able to offer more complete care coordination and care management than is possible through a fee-for-service system. They can also provide a broader array of services aimed at stabilizing and supporting the lives of Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

Depending on the needs of the beneficiary, some may need to access six or more separate delivery systems (managed care, fee-for-service, mental health, substance use disorder, dental, developmental, In Home Supportive Services, etc.). As one would expect, need for care coordination increases with greater system fragmentation, greater clinical complexity, and/or decreased patient capacity for coordinating their own care. Therefore, in order to meet the behavioral, developmental, physical, and oral health needs of all members in an integrated, patient centered, whole person fashion, DHCS is seeking to integrate our delivery systems and

align funding, data reporting, quality and infrastructure to mobilize and incentivize towards common goals.

To achieve such outcome, the initiative proposals offer the solutions to ensure the stability of Medi-Cal program and allows the critical successes of waiver demonstrations such as Whole Person Care, the Coordinated Care Initiative, public hospital system delivery transformation, and the coordination and delivery of quality care to continue and be expanded to all Medi-Cal enrollees. The initiative seeks to build upon past successes and improve the entire continuum of care across Medi-Cal, ensuring the system more appropriately manages patients over time through a comprehensive array of health and social services spanning all levels of intensity of care, from birth to end of life. To do this, we must change the expectations for our managed care and behavioral health systems. Holding our delivery system partners accountable for a set of programmatic and administrative expectations is no longer enough. We must provide a wider array of services and supports for complex, high need patients whose health outcomes are in part driven by unmet social needs and make system changes necessary to close the gap in transitions between delivery systems, opportunities for appropriate step-down care and mitigate social determinants of health, all hindering the ability to improve health outcomes and morbidity.

## Key Goals

Medi-Cal Healthier California for All has three primary goals:

- Identify and manage member risk and need through Whole Person Care Approaches and addressing Social Determinants of Health;
- Move Medi-Cal to a more consistent and seamless system by reducing complexity and increasing flexibility; and
- Improve quality outcomes and drive delivery system transformation through value-based initiatives, modernization of systems and payment reform.

The reforms are comprehensive and critical to the success of the delivery system transformation necessary to improve the quality of life for Medi-Cal members as well as long-term cost savings/avoidance that will not be possible to achieve absent these initiatives. Furthermore, these reforms are interdependent and build off one another; without one, the others are not either possible or powerful. Below is an overview of the various proposals and recommendations that make up Medi-Cal Healthier California for All.

### ***Identify and Manage Member Risk and Need through Whole Person Care Approaches and Addressing Social Determinants of Health***

- Require plans to submit local population health management plans.
- Implement new statewide enhanced care management benefit.
- Implement in lieu of services (e.g. housing navigation/supporting services, recuperative care, respite, sobering center, etc.).
- Implement incentive payments to drive plans and providers to invest in the necessary infrastructure, build appropriate enhanced care management and in lieu of services capacity statewide.
- Evaluate participation in Institutions for Mental Disease Serious Mental Illness/Serious Emotional Disturbance Section 1115 Expenditure Waiver.
- Require screening and enrollment for Medi-Cal prior to release from county jail.

- Pilot full integration of physical health, behavioral health, and oral health under one contracted entity in a county or region.
- Develop a long-term plan for improving health outcomes and delivery of health care for foster care children and youth.

### ***Moving Medi-Cal to a More Consistent and Seamless System by Reducing Complexity and Increasing Flexibility***

#### **Managed Care**

- Standardize managed care enrollment statewide
- Standardize managed care benefits statewide
- Transition to statewide managed long term services and supports
- Require Medi-Cal managed care plans be National Committee for Quality Assurance accredited
- Implement annual Medi-Cal health plan open enrollment
- Implement regional rates for Medi-Cal managed care plans

#### **Behavioral Health**

- Behavioral health payment reform
- Revisions to behavioral health inpatient and outpatient medical necessity criteria for children and adults
- Administrative behavioral health integration statewide
- Regional contracting
- Substance use disorder managed care program renewal and policy improvements

#### **Dental**

- New benefit: Caries Risk Assessment Bundle and Silver Diamine Fluoride for young children
- Pay for Performance for adult and children preventive services and continuity of care through a Dental Home

#### **County Based Services**

- Enhance oversight and monitoring of Medi-Cal Eligibility
- Enhance oversight and monitoring of California Children's Services and the Child Health and Disability Prevention program
- Improving beneficiary contract and demographic information

For detailed descriptions of the Medi-Cal Healthier California for All proposals please refer to the full proposal document located on the [DHCS website](#).

### **Advancing Key Priorities**

Medi-Cal Healthier California for All aligns with and advances several key priorities of the Administration. At its core, the initiative recognizes the impact of Medi-Cal on the lives of its beneficiaries well beyond just accessing health services in traditional delivery settings. The initiative establishes a foundation where investments and programs within Medicaid can easily integrate, complement and catalyze the Administration's plan to impact the State's homelessness crisis, support reforms of our justice systems for youth and adults who have

significant health issues, build a platform for vastly more integrated systems of care and move toward a level of standardization and streamlined administration required as we explore single payer principles through the Healthy California for All Commission. Furthermore, the initiative will advance a number of existing Medi-Cal efforts such as Whole Person Care and the Health Homes Program, the prescription drug Executive Order, improving screenings for kids, proliferating the use of value-based payments across our system, including in behavioral health and long-term care. The initiative will also support the ongoing need to increase oversight and monitoring of all county-based services including specialty mental health and substance use disorder services, Medi-Cal eligibility, and other key children's programs currently administered by our county partners.

Below is an overview of the impact the initiative could have on certain populations, if enacted and funded as proposed:

**Health for All:** In addition to focusing on preventive and wellness services, the initiative will identify patients with high and emerging risk/need and improve the entire continuum of care across Medi-Cal, ensuring the system more appropriately manages patients over time, through a comprehensive array of health and social services spanning all levels of intensity of care, from birth and early childhood to end of life.

**High Utilizers (top 5%):** It is well documented that the highest utilizers represent a majority of the costs in Medi-Cal. The initiative proposes enhanced care management and in lieu of services benefits (such as housing transitions, respite and sobering centers) that address the clinical and non-clinical needs of high-cost Medi-Cal beneficiaries, through a collaborative and interdisciplinary whole person care approach to providing intensive and comprehensive care management services to improve health and mitigate social determinants of health.

**Behavioral Health:** The initiative's behavioral health proposals would initiate a fundamental shift in how Californians (adults and children) will access specialty mental health and substance use disorder services. It aligns the financing structure of behavioral health with that of physical health, which provides financial flexibility to innovate, and enter into value-based payment arrangements that improve quality and access to care. Similarly, the reforms in the initiative simplify administration of, eligibility for, and access to integrated behavioral health care.

**Vulnerable Children:** The initiative would provide access to enhanced care management for medically complex children to ensure they get their physical, behavioral, developmental and oral health needs met. It aims to identify innovative solutions for providing low-barrier, comprehensive care for children and youth in foster care and furthers the efforts already underway to improve preventive services for children including identifying the complex impacts of trauma, toxic stress and adverse childhood experiences by, among other things, a reexamination of the existing behavioral health medical necessity definition.

**Homelessness and Housing:** The addition of in lieu of services would build capacity to clinically linked housing continuum via in lieu of services for our homeless population, including housing transitions/navigation services, housing deposits, housing tenancy and sustaining services, short-term post hospitalization housing, recuperative care for inpatient transitions and day habilitation programs.

**Justice Involved:** The Medi-Cal pre-release application mandate, enhanced care management and in lieu of services would provide the opportunity to better coordinate medical, behavioral health and non-clinical social services for justice-involved individuals prior to and upon release from county jails. These efforts will support scaling of diversion and reentry efforts aimed at keeping some of the most acute and vulnerable individuals with serious medical or behavioral health conditions out of jail/prison and in their communities, further aligning with other state hospital efforts to better support care for felons incompetent to stand trial and other forensic state-responsible populations.

**Aging Population:** In lieu of services would allow the state to build infrastructure over time to provide Managed Long-Term Services and Supports (MLTSS) statewide by 2026. MLTSS will provide appropriate services and infrastructure for home and community-based services to meet the needs of aging beneficiaries and individuals at risk of institutionalization and should be a critical component on the State's Master Plan on Aging.