



CMHDA-CADPAAC Medi-Cal Substance Use Disorder Waiver Recommendations

JOINTLY ADOPTED 2-13-14

- 1) **Expand California's Bridge to Reform Demonstration.** CMHDA and CADPAAC strongly support the expansion of California's Bridge to Reform Demonstration (Section 1115(a) Medicaid Demonstration Waiver) to test new and innovative organized service delivery system models that improve care, increase efficiency and reduce costs in the Drug Medi-Cal Program.
- 2) **Develop an Organized Delivery System to Respond to Significant Recent Changes.** The Drug Medi-Cal program provides substance use disorder treatment services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries. Funding for the program was realigned to the counties as part of 2011 Public Safety Realignment, but the delivery system remained unchanged. California's Budget Act for FY 13-14 significantly expanded the benefits available through the Drug Medi-Cal program, as well as expanded eligibility for the entire Medi-Cal program as part of California's implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Given these important changes, an organized delivery system is critically needed in a timely fashion to meet the needs of the tens of thousands of additional potential Medi-Cal beneficiaries seeking expanded substance use disorder treatment.
- 3) **Implement State's Behavioral Health Services Plan to Ensure Access to Benchmark Benefits.** As part of the special terms and conditions of the Bridge to Reform Demonstration, CMS required that California develop a detailed plan outlining the steps and infrastructure necessary to meet requirements of a benchmark plan and ensure strong availability of behavioral health services, including substance use disorder services. CMHDA and CADPAAC strongly support the expansion of the Bridge to Reform Demonstration to implement this detailed plan in order to ensure access to the substance use disorder services included in the benchmark plan.
- 4) **Address Local and State Correctional Challenges.** The Bridge to Reform Demonstration provides an important opportunity to create an organized substance use disorder service delivery system that can better coordinate with county public safety systems, improving the coordination of mental health and substance use disorder services to better support offenders in their re-entry back into the community.