



# **DHCS Behavioral Health Forum Strengthening Forum**

**July 21, 2014  
10:30 to 12:00 p.m.**

# Agenda

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- I. Welcome and Introductions
  - II. Strengthening Forum Documents
  - III. Announcements and Project Updates
    - a. Stakeholder Engagement
    - b. Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) Waiver
    - c. Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) Regulations
    - d. Cultural Competence Plan Requirements
    - e. Children's Behavioral Health Issues
    - f. Compliance and Monitoring
  - IV. Stakeholder Discussion
  - V. Next Steps
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# Behavioral Health Forum Leads

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Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder  
Services  
Department of Health Care Services

Brenda Grealish, Chief  
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Marjorie McKisson, Special Advisor  
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Sarah Brooks, Chief  
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Medi-Cal Managed Care  
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# KEY FORUM DOCUMENTS



# Revised Stakeholder Issues Grid

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- DHCS reviewed stakeholder feedback and made revisions to the grid structure:
  - Removed duplication and consolidated issues
  - Separated distinct issues that were grouped under a single heading
  - Added category themes to each issue
  - Moved issues to appropriate Forum, if indicated
  - Created a “Fiscal” Forum
- DHCS prioritized issues and converted the issues grid into Forum Charters for the current Fiscal Year (2014/2015)



# Prioritization of Issues

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- DHCS identified critical areas to be addressed during this fiscal year's Behavioral Health Forum (FY2014/2015)
- FY 14/15 priorities have been included on Forum Charters
- Other issues will be prioritized as needed



# Prioritization Criteria

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- Improves access and/or quality of services for a large group of beneficiaries
- Promotes effectiveness and/or efficiency of services (without impacting outcomes in a negative way)
- Assures or promotes judicious use of funds/resources
- Aligns with DHCS Strategic Plan, Quality Strategy, and Prevention Strategy
- Required by state or federal laws and regulations

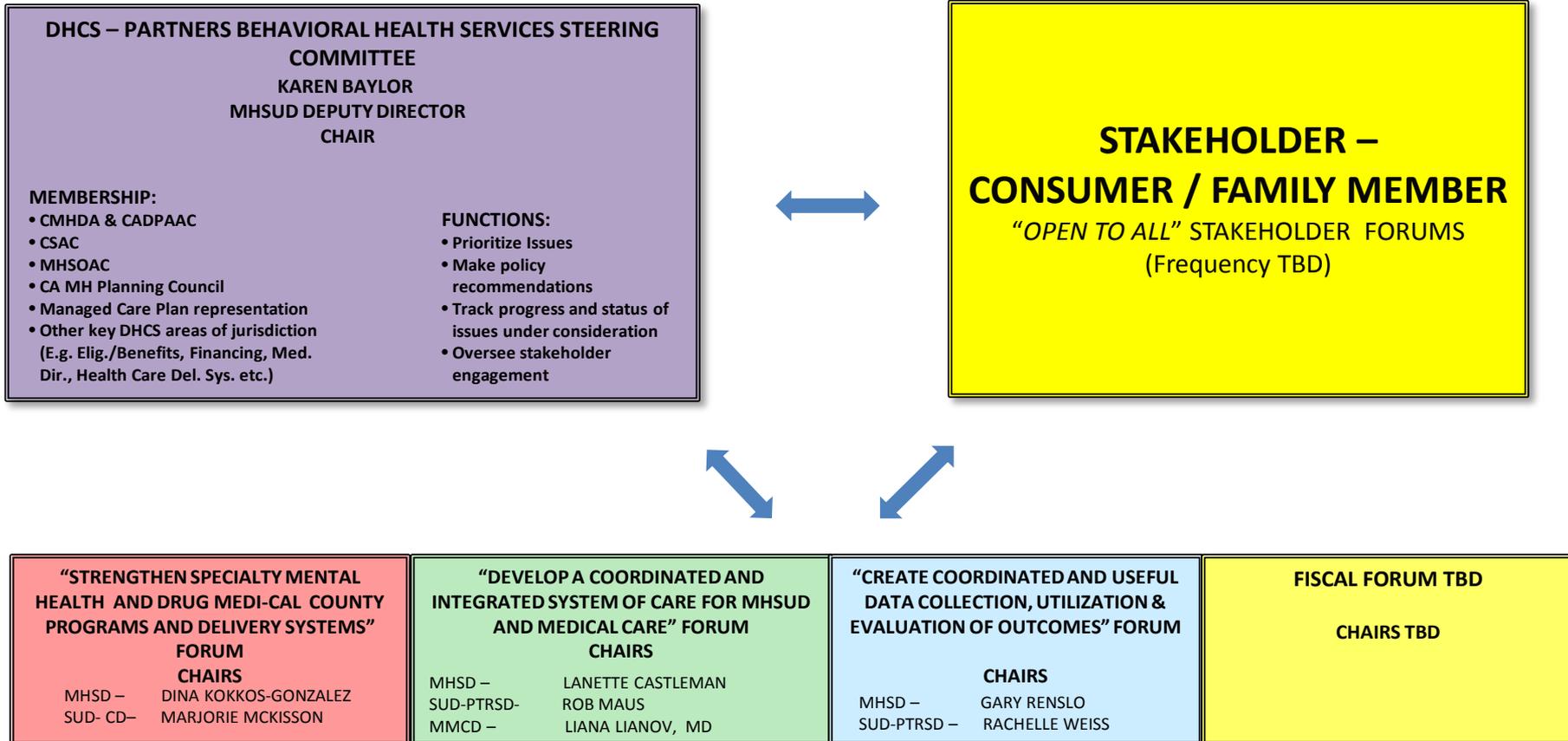


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# FORUM CHARTER



# DHCS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FORUM



- Recommend prioritization of issues and work plan tasks
- Recommend policy and program actions
- Invite participation from other DHCS as well as other areas of jurisdiction (e.g. Managed Care, Benefits, Office of the Medical Director etc.)
- Invite Steering Committee members and/or stakeholders to meetings and/or solicit review and comment as needed
- Invite Legislative staff to meetings and/or solicit review and comment
- Report out as needed (internally and externally)

# DHCS BH Forum

## Organizational Structure (cont'd)

**“STRENGTHEN SPECIALTY MENTAL HEALTH AND DRUG MEDI-CAL COUNTY PROGRAMS AND DELIVERY SYSTEMS” FORUM (a.k.a. “Strengthening”)**

- This forum will focus on issues that are unique to Specialty Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders services including, but not limited to, Drug Medi-Cal.
- Goal is to improve or strengthen these delivery systems and benefits.
- This Forum will interact with the green (integration) blue (data) and yellow (fiscal) Forums where areas overlap.
- The forum focuses on the ‘DMC Parking Lot’ issues identified by stakeholders and County AOD administrators.

# Background and Purpose

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- To provide key stakeholders, and other interested parties, with updates regarding critical policy and programmatic issues impacting existing state and county level delivery systems for MHSUDs.



# Objectives

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- Improve access to public mental health and substance use disorder services
- Enhance quality assurance efforts and improve quality of care for mental health and substance use disorder services
- Pursue solutions to provide counties with greater flexibility to manage fiscal and program risks



# Objectives (cont)

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- Support the development of financing strategies for Medi-Cal and other funding sources that are aligned with positive outcomes and best practices for mental health and substance use disorder services
- Offer recommendations to improve efficiency of federal billing structures, reimbursement, cost reporting for Medi-Cal in both mental health and substance use disorder systems



# Objectives (cont)

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- Develop mechanisms that advocate for behavioral health treatment parity in health care
- Make recommendations to support the development of an adequate and trained workforce
- Promote opportunities to increase sustainability of substance use disorder provider organizations



# FY14/15 Priority Areas

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- Stakeholder Engagement
- Children's Behavioral Health
- Compliance and Monitoring
- DMC Waiver
- Service Delivery Systems



# ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PROJECT UPDATES



# Announcements and Project Updates

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- Stakeholder Engagement
- Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) Waiver
- Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) Regulations
- Cultural Competence Plan Requirements
- Children's Behavioral Health Issues
- Compliance and Monitoring



# Announcements and Project Updates

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- **Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) Waiver**
  - DMC program provides SUD treatment services to MC beneficiaries.
  - Waiver gives state and county officials more authority to select quality providers and meets drug treatment needs. Ensures access to services and treatment is consistent with program goals.
  - Draft Terms and Conditions of the waiver are posted on DHCS website
  - Next Wavier Advisory Group meeting is Wednesday, July 30, 2014. Open to public via call-in or in person.



<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/MH-SUD-UpcomingMeetings.aspx>

# Announcements and Project Updates

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# Announcements and Project Updates

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- Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) Regulations
  - DHCS identified a need to strengthen the program by clarifying provider and medical director responsibilities to ensure appropriate services for patients in need of treatment
  - SUD division has prepared and issued emergency regulations for the DMC program. Emergency regulations in effect now (6-25-14 to 12-23-14). Close of public comment period is 5:00 PM September 8, 2014. More information at:

[http://www.oal.ca.gov/July\\_2014\\_Notice\\_Register.htm](http://www.oal.ca.gov/July_2014_Notice_Register.htm)

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/DHCS-14-006E-DMCProgramIntegrity.aspx>



# Announcements and Project Updates

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- Cultural Competence Plan Requirements (CCPR)
  - Requires MHPs to identify, analyze and report disparities in mental health services for un-served and underserved communities and to develop a plan with strategies to address these disparities.
  - DHCS is requesting updated Plans from MHPs to ensure consistency with updated 2013 Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) standards and changes in MHSA reporting requirements.
  - Established an Interim Advisory Taskforce to review CCRP implemented system and review process
  - DHCS offers technical assistance services to all agencies developing and adopting the CLAS standards.
  - DHCS plans to establish a Cultural Competence Advisory Committee



# Announcements and Project Updates

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## • Children's Behavioral Health

- **Autism:** MC does not have specific services designated as “autism services.” Covered services for autism include, but are not limited to. Applied Behavioral Therapy (ABT), psychiatry and psychology services, speech and language therapy, physical therapy, and/or occupational therapy. Services provided to children under Medi-Cal with a diagnosis of autism must meet medical necessity requirements and the acuity level of their given diagnosis will dictate the level and amount of services to be provided.
- Currently, DHCS's Benefits Division and Medi-Cal Managed Care Division (MMCD) are analyzing the scope of services commonly referred to as "ABA/ABT" to assess the extent to which they may be covered under existing benefit categories (speech, occupational, physical, habilitative [DDS State Plan]) and by existing providers enrolled in Medi-Cal. Benefits and MMCD are reviewing the most recent CMS guidance in the area of ABA for autism. Consideration is being given to address service/benefit gaps that may exist in Medi-Cal for autism.



# Announcements and Project Updates

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- Children's Behavioral Health (cont.)
  - **Katie A.:** lawsuit sought to improve the provision of mental health and supportive services for children and youth in, or at imminent risk of placement in, foster care in California. As part of settlement agreement, the State is taking a series of actions to transform the way children and youth who are in foster care, or who are at imminent risk of placement, receive access to mental health services, including assessment and individualized treatment, consistent with the Core Practice Model.
  - State currently holds TA calls every first and third Wednesday of the month – provide guidance on implementation activities
  - Counties can participate in a Learning Collaborative – opportunity to exchange knowledge, tools and other resources
  - Statewide Collaboratives Meeting scheduled for August 21, 2014



# Announcements and Project Updates

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# Announcements and Project Updates

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- Children's Behavioral Health (cont.)
  - **Katie A (cont.):**
  - Joint Management Taskforce composed of State, County, and provider representatives as well as family and youth advocates are in the process of developing recommendations regarding shared management structures, policies and procedures, accountability, communications, data, information sharing and fiscal strategies.
  - State is working with CMS to obtain federal approval of TFC services.
  - Webinars have been provided by the California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions



# Announcements and Project Updates

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- Children's Behavioral Health (cont.)
  - **Out-of-County Mental Health Services:**
    - California Child Welfare Council commissioned a report to document extent to which foster children are placed out-of-county and receiving medically needed specialty mental health services. Report found that children out-of-county had a lower rate of mental health services provided when compared to children served in county of origin. Lower rates of services were a result of administrative and programmatic barriers between counties.
    - DHCS has developed County-Collaborative Team Model (CCTM) to ensure children placed out of county receive coordinated specialty mental health services.
    - DHCS is working to finalize and submit CCTM Concept for input



# Announcements and Project Updates

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- **Compliance and Monitoring Efforts**

- Will address five prominent areas of concern identified by CMS needing immediate action and monitoring
  - 24/7 statewide toll-free telephone line with language capability for all languages spoken by beneficiaries
  - System in place to track timeliness for scheduling services across the plan
  - TARs adjudicated in 14 days
  - System in place to log grievances and appeals
  - System in place to ensure providers are certified and recertified
- MC Specialty MH Services waiver approved through June 30, 2015. DHCS will submit request for wavier renewal by March 2015; demonstrating significant improvement to MPH performance.



# Announcements and Project Updates

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- **Compliance and Monitoring Efforts (cont.)**
  - The Department has been working on the following activities:
    - Convene a collaborative workgroup with County Behavioral Health Disorders Association to develop uniform measures
    - MHSD County Support Unit has increased monitoring efforts, before POCB system reviews
    - MHSD has proposed to increase the frequency of system and chart reviews for MHPs with higher rates of out-of-compliance
    - Provide a Provider Certification training on July 23 and 24, 2014 (for all counties)
    - MHSD has conducted a qualitative and quantitative analysis on data generated from 3 FYs of the Triennial MC Program Oversight Reviews
    - MHSD will provide TA calls to assist MHPs with areas of general concern
    - 24/7 access line - MHSD has collected information from all the MHPs on the mechanisms used in each county to meet linguistic access requirements



# Announcements and Project Updates

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- **Compliance and Monitoring Efforts (cont.)**
  - The Department has been working on the following activities:
    - MHSD will request that MHPs submit Quality Improvement Work Plans in the near future. TA will provided.
    - MHSD will request the MPHs submit Implementation Plan Updates. TA will be provided.
  - Department will continue to work with the County Behavioral Health Directors Association and MHPs
  - Department will provide intensive TA in targeted areas and for specific counties as needed, related to POCB system reviews
  - Increase frequency of reviews when necessary
  - Develop process and timing for sanctions and/or penalties
  - The Department will continue to work with CMS



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# STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION



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# NEXT STEPS



# Future Meeting Dates

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Please mark your calendars as the Behavioral Health Forums will next be meeting:

- October 2, 2014
- January 9, 2015
- April 2, 2015



# Contact Information

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Behavioral Health Forum Stakeholder Website:

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/MH-SUD-UpcomingMeetings.aspx>

*Please e-mail questions,  
comments or concerns to:*

[MHSUDStakeholderInput@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:MHSUDStakeholderInput@dhcs.ca.gov)

